Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan For Alaska FFY 2016-2018

1 Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems

Implementation of the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014 will require leadership and coordination between the child care assistance program and other child- and family-serving agencies, services, and supports at the state and local levels. ACF recognizes that each grantee must identify the most appropriate entities and individuals to lead and participate in implementation based on the context within that State or Territory. This will include those that manage various components of CCDF-funded activities and requirements (fiscal, subsidy, health and safety monitoring, and continuous quality improvement) as well as other public and private partners.

This section collects information to help ACF understand the stakeholders convened and consulted to develop the Plan, where authority lies to make policy decisions and program changes, and who is responsible for implementing the blueprint for action the Plan describes. For example, the law requires that, at the option of the Tribes, State/Territory Lead Agencies must collaborate and coordinate with Indian tribes or tribal organizations in the State in a timely manner in the development of the CCDF Plan. ACF expects that new requirements in the law will necessitate that grantees build partnerships with other agencies and organizations to better link the children and families receiving financial assistance to information, services and resources regarding other programs for which they may be eligible, including developmental screenings for children, and other resources (also in section 2). In addition, States and Territories must describe how public-private partnerships are being used to increase the supply and quality of child care services.

1.1 CCDF Leadership

The Governor of a State or Territory shall designate an agency (which may be an appropriate collaborative agency), or establish a joint inter-agency office, to represent the State (or Territory) as the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency agrees to administer the program in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations and the provisions of this Plan, including the assurances and certifications appended hereto. (658D, 658E(c)(1))

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1.1.1 Which Lead Agency is designated to administer the CCDF program?

Identify the Lead Agency or joint inter-agency office designated by the State/Territory. ACF will send official grant correspondence such as grant awards, grant adjustments, Plan approvals, and disallowance notifications to the designated contact identified here. (658D(a))

Name of Lead Agency: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Address of Lead Agency: P. O. Box 240249, Anchorage, AK 99503

Name and Title of the Lead Agency Official: Valerie Davidson, Commissioner of Department of Health and Social Services

Phone Number: 907-269-7800

E-Mail Address: val.davidson@alaska.gov

Web Address for Lead Agency (if any): http://dhss.alaska.gov

1.1.2 Who is the CCDF administrator?

Identify the CCDF administrator designated by the Lead Agency, the day-to-day contact, with responsibility for administering the State/Territory's CCDF program. ACF will send programmatic communications such as program announcements, program instructions, and data collection instructions to the designated contact identified here. If there is more than one designated contact with equal or shared responsibility for administering the CCDF program, please identify the co-administrator or entity with administrative responsibilities and include contact information.

a) Contact Information for CCDF Administrator:

Name of CCDF Administrator: Marcey Bish

Title of CCDF Administrator: Program Manager

Address of CCDF Administrator: 3601 C Street, Suite 140, Anchorage, AK 99524-

1809

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Phone Number: 907-269-4784

E-Mail Address: marcey.bish@alaska.gov

b) Contact Information for CCDF Co-Administrator (if applicable):

Name of CCDF Co-Administrator:

Title of CCDF Co-Administrator:

Phone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Description of the role of the Co-Administrator:

c) Primary Contact Information for the CCDF Program:

Phone Number for CCDF program information (for the public) (if any): 1-888-268-4632 or (907)269-4500

Web Address for CCDF program (for the public) (if any): http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx

Web Address for CCDF program policy manual (if any): http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx

Web Address for CCDF program administrative rules (if any): http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx

1.1.3 Identify the agency/department/entity that is responsible for each of the major parts of CCDF administration and the name of the lead contact responsible for managing this portion of the Plan.

Outreach and Consumer Education (section 2)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Amanda Manning

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Subsidy/Financial Assistance (section 3 and section 4)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Janice Braden

Licensing/Monitoring (section 5)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Staci Collier

Child Care Workforce (section 6)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Christina Hulquist

Quality Improvement (section 7)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Christina Hulquist

Grantee Accountability/Program Integrity (section 8)

Agency/Department/Entity Division of Public Assistance/Department of Health and Social Services/ Child Care Program Office

Name of Lead Contact Elain Rich

1.2 CCDF Policy Decision Authority

The Lead Agency has broad authority to administer (i.e., establish rules) and operate (i.e., implement activities) the CCDF program through other governmental, non-governmental, or other public or private local agencies as long as it retains overall responsibility for the administration of the program. (658D(b))

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1.2.1 Which of the following CCDF program rules and policies are set or established at the State/Territory versus the local level?

In other words, identify whether CCDF program rules and policies are established by the state or territory (even if administered or operated locally) or whether the CCDF policies or rules are established by local entities (such as counties or workforce boards) setting those policies. Check one.

All program rules and policies are set or established at the State/Territory level.
Some or all program rules and policies are set or established by local entities. If checked,
indicate which entities establish the following policies. Check all that apply.
Eligibility rules and policies (e.g., income limits) are set by the:
☐ State/Territory
County.
If checked, describe the type of eligibility policies the county can set
Other local entity (e.g., workforce boards, early learning coalitions).
If checked, identify the entity (e.g. workforce board) and describe the type of eligibility
policies the local entity(ies) can set
Cother.
Describe:
Sliding fee scale is set by the:
☐State/Territory
County
If checked, describe the type of sliding fee scale policies the county can set
Other local entity (e.g., workforce boards, early learning coalitions).
If checked, identify the entity (e.g. workforce board) and describe the type of sliding
fee scale policies the local entity(ies) can set
Other

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Describe:
Payment rates are set by the: State/Territory County. If checked, describe the type of payment rate policies the county can set
Other local entity (e.g., workforce boards, early learning coalitions). If checked, identify the entity (e.g. workforce board) and describe the type of payment rate policies the local entity(ies) can set
Other. Describe:
Other. List and describe (e.g., quality improvement systems, payment practices):
List and describe (e.g., quality improvement systems, payment practices).

1.2.2 How is the CCDF program operated in your State/Territory?

In other words, which agency(ies) implement or perform these CCDF services and activities and how will the State/Territory ensure that Federal CCDF requirements are fully implemented by other governmental or nongovernmental agencies. ACF recommends minimizing differences in eligibility or other policies across counties or other jurisdictions to ease family burden and confusion. Check all that apply, and describe the services performed by the entity and how the State/Territory ensures accountability that federal requirements are fully implemented by other agency(ies).

a)	Who determines eligibility?
	CCDF Lead Agency
	TANF agency
	Describe.
	Other State/Territory agency.

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	Describe.
	The Office of Children's Services determines eligibility for children in protective
	services. These children are categorically eligible for child care assistance.
	Local government agencies such as county welfare or social services departments
	Describe.
	Child care resource and referral agencies
	Describe.
	Families applying for or receiving PASS II or PASS III child care assistance in the
	Northern Service Delivery Area are determined eligible by Alaska's statewide Child
	Care Resource and Referral Network, thread.
	☑ Community-based organizations
	Describe.
	Families applying for or receiving PASS II or PASS III child care assistance are
	determined eligible by Designees via grants with the CCDF Lead Agency, the Child
	Care Program Office.
	Designees include: Alaska Family Services Inc. for the Municipality of Anchorage and
	Central Service Delivery Areas; Catholic Community Service- Southeast Service
	Delivery Area; and The LeeShore Center- Coastal Service Delivery Area.
	Other.
	Describe.
b)	Who assists parents in locating child care (consumer education)?
	☑ CCDF Lead Agency
	▼TANF agency
	Describe.
	The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance

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and/or Work Services Provider staff may assist parents in locating child care by

of Alaska: Find a Child Care Provider" located at:

accessing the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office website and selecting "State

http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx.

They may also refer parents to Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread.

Other State/Territory agency.

Describe.

The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services, may assist foster parents in locating child care by accessing the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, and selecting "State of Alaska: Find a Child Care Provider" located at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx.

They may also refer parents to Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread.

Local government agencies such as county welfare or social services departments Describe.

Child care resource and referral agencies

Describe.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, assists families in locating child care by providing online, in person and over the phone referrals to child care programs. Below is the link to thread's new online search tool: http://threadalaska.org/index.cfm/Families/Child-Care-Referral-Services/

Community-based organizations

Describe.

Families applying for or receiving PASS II or PASS III child care assistance are determined eligible by Designees via grants with the CCDF Lead Agency.

Designees include: Alaska Family Services Inc.in the Municipality of Anchorage and Central Service Delivery Areas; Catholic Community Service- Southeast Service Delivery Area; and The LeeShore Center- Coastal Service Delivery Area.

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	Other.
	Describe.
c)	Who issues payments?
	CCDF Lead Agency
	TANF agency
	Describe.
	Other State/Territory agency.
	Describe.
	Local government agencies such as county welfare or social services departments
	Describe. The Office of Children's Services issues resuments through a Reimburgable Service.
	The Office of Children's Services issues payments through a Reimbursable Service Agreement with the CCDF Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.
	Child care resource and referral agencies
	Describe.
	Community-based organizations
	Describe.
	Other.
	Describe.

1.3 Consultation in the Development of the State Plan

The Lead Agency is responsible for developing the CCDF plan which serves as the application for a three-year implementation period. In the development of the CCDF plan, the Lead Agency shall consult with appropriate representatives of units of general purpose local government. (658D(b)(2)) General purpose local governments is defined by the U.S. Census at https://www.census.gov/newsroom/cspan/govts/20120301_cspan_govts_def_3.pdf The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that States consult with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (pursuant to 642B(b)(I)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act).

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658E(c)(2)(R) In addition, States shall, at the option of an Indian tribe or tribal organization in the State, collaborate and coordinate with such Indian tribe or tribal organization in the development of the State plan in a timely manner. (658D (b)(1)(E))

1.3.1 Check who and describe how the Lead Agency consulted with these entities in the development of the CCDF Plan (check all that apply).

For example, did the entity participate in a drafting committee, review drafts, sign off on the final version, or develop a memorandum of understanding with the Lead Agency to meet requirements to share information or services for CCDF subsidy families, or other manner of participation? This list includes entities required by law along with a list of optional CCDF Plan consultation partners that Lead Agencies potentially would consult with in their developing their CCDF Plan.

[REQUIRED] Appropriate representatives of general purpose local government, which can include counties, municipalities or townships/towns

Describe:

The Lead Agency consulted with the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Child Care Licensing Program, grantee of the Lead Agency, regarding sections 5-7 of the plan, through regular and ongoing meetings with the grantee or via committee meetings. These meetings included but were not limited to: monthly meetings with the Lead Agency's Child Care Licensing Program Manager regarding grant expectations and compliance, development of licensing policies and procedures, and alignment of the MOA code with Lead Agency regulations; quarterly System for Early Education Development meetings focused on professional development of the early care and learning workforce; and sub-committee meetings pertinent to the development and implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System.

Representatives of general purpose local governments, including the MOA, also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

[REQUIRED IF APPLICABLE] State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education
and Care (pursuant to 642B(b)(I)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act).

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Describe:

If checked, does the Lead Agency have official representation and a decision-making role in the State Advisory Council?

TYes.

□No.

If no State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (pursuant to 642B(b)(I)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act) exists in your State/Territory, describe how you consulted with any other state- or state-designated cross-agency body such as an advisory council, cross-agency commission, or council or cabinet related to child and family planning and policy

The Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) is responsible for coordination of state systems in order to provide efficient, effective, and accessible services for young children. AECCC includes representatives from both the public and private sectors and members generally meet quarterly. The CCDF State Child Care Administrator and CEO of thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, where the System for Early Education Development (SEED) and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) are housed, are both members of the council. The State Administrator is also a member of the steering committee. The council is focused on recommendations that include but are not limited to: expanding early childhood services to new children and families through in and out of home services; identifying methods to increase the pay in early childhood settings, particularly for those with higher degrees; implementing a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS); increasing awareness of the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines; embedding Strengthening Families protective factors through systems across the board; supporting and promoting a local partnerships grant process to invest in early childhood and family support; ensuring well child exams are accessible to all children in Alaska; and seeking to ensure every child and their family has full access to age appropriate services that promote physical, emotional, and behavioral health and safety.

Many of the recommendations of the AECCC align with and focus on topic areas of the CCDF plan. AECCC members receive ongoing updates regarding the implementation of Learn & Grow and are given the opportunity to provide input.

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Information gathered from these ongoing meetings and through discussion with AECCC members is taken into consideration by the State Administrator for purposes of program planning and development of/revisions to policies and procedures.

Council members were notified during the January 13, 2016, meeting the CCDF Plan would soon be posted and encouraged to review the plan and provide input through electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

☑[REQUIRED] Indian tribe(s) and/or tribal organization(s), at the option of individual Tribes.

Describe, including which Tribe(s) you consulted with

Representatives from Alaska Native Tribal Organizations receiving CCDF funding were invited to provide input on this draft CCDF Plan through ongoing collaborative efforts and more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process. Tribes were contacted on January 28, 2016 through an emailed broadcast with access to the draft CCDF Plan and invited to participate in the public hearing process. Kawerak attended the Public Hearing and provided comments which will be used in future programmatic decision making. Also, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), shared the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey with Alaska Native Tribal Organizations through an email broadcast in January 2016. The CCPO, shared information and solicited feedback from Tribal Child Care and Development Fund Partners on the following plan specific topics: August 5, 2014, Alaska Tribal Call regarding Licensing (CCPO Child Care Licensing); October 28, 2014, Alaska Tribal Call regarding Child Care Assistance (CCPO Child Care Assistance Program); December 11, 2014, Alaska Tribal Call regarding Professional Development (Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread); and March 19, 2015, Alaska Tribal Call regarding Market Price Survey (CCPO).

Check N/A if no Indian Tribes and/or Tribal organizations in the State

State/Territory agency responsible for public education.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, consulted with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), regarding sections 5-7 of the plan, through regular and ongoing meetings or via committee meetings. These meetings included but were not limited to: regular meetings with the Lead Agency's Child Care Licensing

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Program Manager regarding health and safety inspections of pre-elementary school programs approved by DEED and related regulatory requirements. The Lead Agency has a reimbursable service agreement with DEED to provide these inspections; meetings as needed with the Lead Agency's Program Coordinator II relating to the early learning guidelines; quarterly AECCC (State Advisory Council) and related steering committee meetings with the CCDF State Administrator; quarterly System for Early Education Development meetings focused on professional development of the early care and learning workforce; and sub-committee meetings pertinent to the development and implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System.

DEED also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

State agency/agencies responsible for programs for children with special needs, including early intervention programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C for infants and toddlers and Section 619 for preschool). Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, consulted with the Office of Children's Services (OCS), regarding sections 2, 6, and 7 of the plan, through regular and ongoing meetings or via committee meetings. Consultation with OCS included discussions pertaining to Early Intervention/Infant Learning programs, Strengthening Families, Alaska Pyramid Partnership (APP), Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Developmental Screening, and early childhood mental health. OCS also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process. Lastly the CCPO's Program Coordinator II who oversees the state subsidy program was invited to present information on the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) and to participate on a monthly basis on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

State/Territory institutions for higher education, including community colleges.

Describe:

Consultation with the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) regarding section 6 of the plan occurred through meetings with the Lead

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Agency', The Child Care Program Office's, Program Coordinator II and through quarterly System for Early Education Development meetings focused on professional development of the early care and learning workforce. Representatives of UAA and UAF also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

■ State/Territory agency responsible for child care licensing.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), is responsible for Child Care Licensing and grants to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to license child care providers within the MOA. The statewide Child Care Licensing Program Manager is a member of the CCPO Management Team and has been directly involved with the writing of this plan. Additionally, all Licensing staff were emailed the plan and invited to provide input. The MOA Program Manager who oversees licensing is also a member of the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee and sub-committees of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System. These committees were instrumental in providing input into sections 5-7 of the plan.

State/Territory office/director for Head Start State collaboration Describe:

The director for Head Start collaboration and the State/Territory agency responsible for public education are both under the Department of Education and Early Development. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, consulted with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), regarding sections 5-7 of the plan, through regular and ongoing meetings or via committee meetings. These meetings included but were not limited to: regular meetings with the Lead Agency's Child Care Licensing Program Manager regarding health and safety inspections of pre-elementary school programs approved by DEED and related regulatory requirements. The Lead Agency has a reimbursable service agreement with DEED to provide these inspections; meetings as needed with the Lead Agency's Program Coordinator II relating to the early learning guidelines; quarterly AECCC (State Advisory Council) and related steering committee meetings with the CCDF State Administrator; quarterly System for Early Education Development meetings focused on professional development of the early care and learning workforce; and sub-committee meetings pertinent to the development and implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System.

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State/Territory/local agencies with Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships grants. Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for WIC, nutrition (including breast-feeding support), and childhood obesity prevention Describe:
Other Federal, State, local and/or private agencies providing early childhood and school-age/youth serving developmental services. Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for implementing the Maternal and Child Home Visitation programs grant Describe:
Agency responsible for Medicaid/Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). Describe:
McKinney-Vento State coordinators for Homeless Education. Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for public health. Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for mental health. Describe:

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☑ State/Territory agency responsible for child welfare.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, consulted with the Office of Children's Services (OCS), a Division of the Lead Agency, who through a reimbursable service agreement, partners to provide child care assistance services to children in foster care and child protective services children. OCS was consulted on sections 3 and 4 of the plan, through regular and ongoing meetings. Additionally, representatives from OCS are members of the SEED Professional Development Committee and sub-committees of Learn & Grow, and were consulted with on sections 5-7 of the plan. OCS also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

State/Territory liaison for military child care programs.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, employs a Military Liaison to increase child care capacity for military families and coordinate with State of Alaska agencies. Consultation with *thread* occurred through a series of discussions (face to face, telephonic and by email). thread also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

State/Territory agency responsible for employment services/workforce development.

Describe:

Consultation with the Division of Public Assistance (DPA), Work Services and Family Support Team occurred through a series of discussions (face to face, telephonic and by email). DPA is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agency for the State of Alaska and works closely with the Department of Labor in developing job opportunities for all Alaskans, while focusing on families receiving TANF. Child Care is acknowledged as a necessary support for families entering and remaining in the work force. DPA also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

State/Territory agency responsible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Describe:

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Consultation with the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) through the Performance Evaluation Team (PET) Team occurred through a series of discussions (face to face, telephonic and by email). This team is comprised of key staff from Temporary Assistance Policy, DPA Program Integrity & Analysis (both Research and Quality Assurance) and Field Services directly involved with work services contractors with the purpose to consult with and ensure work services contractors have the information, tools and guidance they need to meet the Division's performance expectations. DPA also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

State/community agencies serving refugee or immigrant families.

Describe:

☑ Child care resource and referral agencies.

Describe:

Consultation with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, a grantee of the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), regarding sections 2, 6, and 7 of the Plan, occurred through regular and ongoing meetings with the grantee or via committee meetings. These meetings included but were not limited to: monthly meetings with the CCPO's Program Coordinator II regarding grant expectations and compliance, quarterly System for Early Education Development meetings focused on professional development of the early care and learning workforce; and executive team, stakeholder and multiple sub-committee meetings pertinent to the development and implementation of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System. thread also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public hearing process.

Provider groups or associations.

Describe:

The Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (AAEYC) leads families, professionals, policy makers, and members of our communities to promote a vision of all young children living, and learning in a diverse and supportive world. The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) via the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee consults and coordinates with the AAEYC. Individuals from the CCPO and AAEYC participate on the professional development

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plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public
hearing process.
Worker organizations.
Describe:
Parent groups or organizations.
Describe:
Other.
Describe:
Consultation with the Alaska Background Check Program (BCP) regarding section 5 of
the plan occurred through regular and ongoing meetings focused on criminal history

checks. The BCP also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan through more formal venues of electronic responses or participating in the public

committee. AAEYC also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the

1.3.2. Describe the Statewide/Territory-wide public hearing process held to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the provision of child care services under this Plan (658D(b)(1)(C)).

Lead Agencies are required to hold at least one public hearing in the State/Territory with sufficient State/Territory-wide distribution of notice prior to such hearing to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the provision of child care services under the CCDF Plan. At a minimum, the description should include:

a) Date(s) of notice of public hearing: 01/31/2016

hearing process.

Reminder - Must be at least 20 calendar days prior to the date of the public hearing.

b) How was the public notified about the public hearing, including how notice was accessible for people with disabilities? Please include website links if utilized to provide notice.

The public hearing notice was posted to the Public Hearing website located at: https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/default.aspx. The public hearing notice was also

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emailed to all partner agencies and child care providers and was posted to the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website on February 1, 2016: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx.

The Alaska statewide Child Care Resources and Referral Network, thread and the Child Care Assistance Program designees shared this information with child care providers and families. Additionally, the public hearing notice was published in the statewide newspaper, Alaska Dispatch News for a period of 10 days. Individuals needing special accommodations, including those with disabilities, were asked to contact the CCPO by February 16, 2016.

c) Date(s) of public hearing(s): 02/22/2016

Reminder - Must be no earlier than September 1, 2015 which is 9 months prior to the June 1, 2016 effective date of the Plan.

- d) Hearing site(s) or method(s), including how geographic regions of the State/Territory were addressed. The public hearing occurred at the Anchorage Legislative Office, Suite 203, West 4th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. Any interested parties were able to attend in-person or through a toll free phone number at 1-888-268-4632.
- e) Describe how the content of the Plan was made available to the public in advance of the public hearing(s) The content of the plan was posted to the Child Care Program Office website and a link was provided via email to all child care providers with a working email address and partner agencies. This email included that the full draft Plan could be mailed upon request.
- f) How will the information provided by the public be taken into consideration in the provision of child care services under this Plan? The comment period was February 1, 2016 through February 22, 2016. A total twenty-nine comments were received through the public hearing process or received by email, in-person, or mail and have been analyzed and will be taken into consideration for future planning, coordination, and decision making as Alaska's budget allows. Non-Plan suggestions for a specific program were forwarded to that program.

1.3.3 Describe the strategies used by the Lead Agency to make the CCDF Plan and Plan Amendments available to the public. Check all that apply and describe the strategies below, including any relevant links as examples.

Working with	advisory	committees
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Describe:

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The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, worked with the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee during a quarterly meeting to review and provide input into drafts of section 6 and 7 of the CCDF plan. Many of the SEED Committee members sit on other advisory committees such as: the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council; Strengthening Families Leadership Team; Alaska Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team; Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement Executive and Stakeholder Teams; the University of Alaska System, Part C, and Tribal Child Care.

Working with child care resource and referral agencies.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, worked with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network regarding development of the CCDF Plan by: collaborating with the CEO of thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, during regularly monthly check-ins specific to their grant and through scheduled topic specific discussions to discuss the new CCDBG requirements and impact to the work of the organization; meeting with the SEED Director to discuss professional development and the QRIS Director to discuss Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System. The State Administrator also met with CCR&R Network Staff during a couple of all staff meetings to share updates and encourage review of and input into the draft CCDF Plan.

Providing translation in other languages.
Describe:

Making available on the Lead Agency website.

List the website:

The CCDF Plan and any Plan amendments will also be made available on the Child Care Program Office's website: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx.

Sharing through social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, email, etc.).

Describe:

An email broadcast regarding the posting of the Draft CCDF Plan on the Online Public Notice website and information about the Public Hearing and opportunity to comment was sent to all child care providers with a working email address in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS).

Providing notification to stakeholders (e.g., provider groups, parent groups).

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Describe:

An email broadcast regarding the posting of the Plan on the Online Public Notice website and information about the Public Hearing and opportunity to comment was sent to stakeholders, including but not limited to: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; Child Care Assistance grantees; Best Beginnings, Alaska's Public/Private Partnership; CCDF Tribal Organizations; and Office of Child Care, Region X staff.

The finalized CCDF Plan and any Plan amendments will be made available on the Child Care Program Office's website. This website may be accessed by the public and the Plan and any amendments will be easily accessible from the homepage.

Other.			
Describe:			

1.4 Coordination with Partners to Expand Accessibility and Continuity of Care

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that the Plan describe how the State/Territory will efficiently, and to the extent practicable, coordinate child care services supported by CCDF with programs operating at the Federal, State/Territory, and local levels for children in the programs listed below.

1.4.1 Check who and describe how your State/Territory coordinates or plans to efficiently coordinate child care services with the following programs to expand accessibility and continuity of care, and assist children enrolled in early childhood programs to receive full-day services that meet the needs of working families. (658E(c)(2)(O))

Please describe the goals of this coordination, such as extending the day or year of services for families; smoothing transitions for children between programs or as they age into school, enhancing and aligning quality of services, linking comprehensive services to children in child care settings or developing supply of quality care for vulnerable populations. NOTE that this list appears similar to the list provided in 1.3.1 which focused on consultation for purposes of

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developing the CCDF Plan, however, this list includes entities required by law, along with a list of optional CCDF Plan coordination partners that Lead Agencies potentially would coordinate with over the next 3 years to expand accessibility and continuity of care, and assist children enrolled in early childhood programs to receive full-day services. Check and describe all that apply.

[REQUIRED] Programs operating at the Federal, State and local levels for children in preschool programs (e.g., state-or locally-funded pre-k, Head Start, school-based programs, public and private preschools, programs serving preschool children receiving special education services, etc.).

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), provides onsite health and safety inspections of public/private pre-elementary school programs in the process of becoming approved or approved by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), via a reimbursable service agreement. This coordination years ago, led to DEED adopting many of the regulations that govern licensed child care facilities thereby facilitating an increased number of pre-elementary school programs approved by DEED becoming licensed.

Additionally, the CCPO or grantee, licenses many pre-elementary school, Head Start, and school-based programs throughout the state. The CCPO has provided technical assistance to public/private pre-elementary school programs to become licensed by meeting with them and providing information on how to become licensed and the benefits of becoming licensed and participating in the Child Care Assistance, Child Care Grant and Alaska Inclusive Child Care Programs.

☑[REQUIRED IF APPLICABLE] Tribal early childhood programs.

Describe, including which Tribes coordinating with:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) or grantee, currently licenses the following Tribal early childhood programs: Uquatchim Uglua Learning Center (North Slope); BBNA Infant Toddler Learning Center (Bristol Bay Native Association); Kenaitze Kuya Qyut'anen Early Childhood Center (Kenaitze Indian Tribe); Uiviilat Play and Learn Center and Brevig Mission Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership, a licensed group home in Brevig Mission (Kawerak, Inc.); and Cook Inlet Native Head Start (Cook Inlet Region, Inc.). In addition to the interactions with licensed child care facilities, Child Care Licensing is collaborating/coordinating with: the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. and the North Slope on the possibility of them opening several new licensed child care facilities in the Barrow outlying regions; Qutekcak Native Tribe who received a large grant to open a child care

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center in Seward; Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. to license an Early Head Start program; and Native Village of Kotzebue to open, Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat, a child care center in Kotzebue. Child Care Licensing representatives also participated in a conference in December 2015 in Bethel, per invitation of Association of Village Council Presidents to share information about the licensing process and to answer questions about the benefits to individuals, and the community, of having licensed child care.

Additionally, a grantee of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), The LeeShore Center, provided outreach presentations about CCAP to Alaska Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), Bering Straits Native Association (Kawerak) and Orutsararmiut Native Corporation. In other efforts to deliver collaborative outreach in rural and tribal communities, The LeeShore Center has also provided guest speakers at the Child Care Conferences held in both Bethel and Dillingham, attended job fairs to provide outreach, conducted Child Care Provider Chats in Kodiak, and met individually with rural providers for recruitment purposes.

Check N/A if no Indian Tribes and/or Tribal organizations or programs in the State. [REQUIRED] Other Federal, State, local early childhood programs serving infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office's, Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) is a statewide, collaborative effort focused on increasing the quality and availability of inclusive child care programs for children with special needs who are participating in the Child Care Assistance Program. Efforts are coordinated between: the CCPO; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread,;the child care provider; the family; and other early care and learning partners such as the Office of Children's Services Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs, as applicable.

[REQUIRED] Early childhood programs serving homeless children (as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act).

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, will be following up with the State Coordinator for Homeless Education in Alaska, through the State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development over this plan period to identify opportunities for

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coordinating services for homeless children, including distributing brochures, providing outreach, and conducting technical assistance and referrals for providers and families.

☑[REQUIRED] Early childhood programs serving children in foster care.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), coordinates with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) regarding child care subsidies for foster care children and children in child protective services through a Reimbursable Services Agreement. The CCPO and OCS have coordinated over the past several years to streamline and better align processes, policies and procedures for obtaining child care subsidies for these vulnerable populations as well to facilitate timely payment to providers. The CCPO and OCS coordinate data collection for the monthly submission of the ACF-801. OCS is invited to quarterly regional child care licensing meetings with partners to share information and to facilitate recruitment and retention of child care providers. Additional efforts to further streamline and align child care subsidies for foster care children and data collection for the ACF801 are ongoing.

State/Territory agency responsible for child care licensing.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), is responsible for the administration and oversight of Child Care Licensing services statewide. The CCPO enters into an agreement via a grant with the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to provide child care licensing services within the MOA, which represents about 41% of the population of the state. MOA licensing standards must meet or exceed state standards. CCPO staff meet on a regular basis with MOA licensing staff to discuss health and safety standards, processes, policies and procedures, reports of concern, investigations and use of the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS). This coordination promotes statewide consistency in the administration of the Child Care Licensing Program, including: promulgation of regulations; development of policies and procedures, forms and notices; and collection, reporting, and analysis of data. A representative of the MOA Child Care Licensing Program also participates in the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), Stakeholder Committee along with CCPO staff members.

State/Territory agency with Head Start State collaboration grant.

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Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), and the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), who administers the Head Start State collaboration grant coordinate regarding child care providers and Head Start programs, including those operated by Tribal Organizations. Regular meetings between the State Child Care Administrator and the Head Start Collaboration Director occur. Additionally, CCPO and DEED staff members participate on the following: Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC); System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee; Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) Executive and Stakeholder Committees; Alaska Strengthening Families Initiative Leadership Team; Alaska Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team; and Early Learning Guidelines Steering Committee. This coordination promotes increased supply of full day/full year services; aligned eligibility policies; opportunities to explore blended funding; and access to more training and technical assistance resources across agencies for programs.

State Advisory Council authorized by the Head Start Act.

Describe:

The Commissioner of the Lead Agency and the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) chair Alaska's Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC). The CCDF State Administrator is a member of the council and consults and coordinates with DEED staff as part of the AECCC steering committee.

State/Territory/local agencies with Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships grants.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, participated in a joint meeting with federal Office of Child Care central office and Region X staff, Alaska Tribal Organizations awarded Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership grants, as well as with other Alaska early care and learning partners in fall 2015 to learn more about the partnership grants and supports needed. Child Care Licensing worked diligently with the grantees, as needed and/or requested to ensure they understood the process for becoming licensed and the standards they must comply with, to assist in answering questions regarding their application, and to facilitate on-site inspections and issuance of the license timely.

McKinney-Vento State coordinators for Homeless Education or local educational agency McKinney-Vento liaisons

Describe:

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The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, will be following up with the State Coordinator for Homeless Education in Alaska, through the State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development over this plan period to identify opportunities for coordinating services for homeless children. This will include working with the Coordinator to provide technical assistance for families and child care providers and obtain outreach materials such as information and brochures to share with families and child care providers.

Child care resource and referral agencies.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, entered into a grant agreement with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network, thread to assist families in making informed choices regarding care for their children, to provide training and technical assistance to early educators to improve skills and quality, and to raise community awareness about early care and learning services to name a few. The CCPO meets with CCR&R staff regularly to share information, provide updates on happenings around the state, to discuss areas of need, to plan and set priorities, etc. Specifically, CCPO and CCR&R staff coordinate regarding the System for Early Education Development (SEED) and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS).

State/Territory agency responsible for public education.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, coordinates with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and/or local school districts in the following ways: works with school districts to license before-and-after school programs in the schools; conducts onsite health and safety inspections of pre-elementary school programs; funds training by Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network for providers serving young children with special needs which include linking with school district services for 3-5 year olds; and distributes Early Learning Guidelines and activity booklets to licensed child care programs.

State/Territory institutions for higher education, including community colleges.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, coordinates with the University of Alaska system, via participation on the System for Early Education Development (SEED)

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Professional Development Committee and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) Stakeholder and other sub-committees.

State/Territory agency responsible for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), lists information for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and also provides a link so child care providers may apply for services through the program. The CCPO will partner with the CACFP to provide brochures and/or referrals to the program for licensed providers.

State/Territory agency responsible for WIC, nutrition (including breast-feeding support), and childhood obesity prevention.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office staff are part of an Early Childhood Education (ECE) childhood obesity prevention work group that meets quarterly. Additionally, WIC staff are invited to quarterly partner's meetings initiated by Child Care Licensing focused sharing of information and recruitment and retention of providers.

Other Federal, State, local and/or private agencies providing early childhood and school-
age/youth serving developmental services.
Describe:
State/Territory agency responsible for implementing the Maternal and Childhood Home
Visitation programs grant.
Describe:
Agency responsible for Medicaid/Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT).
(LEODI).

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, is in the process of coordinating with the Office of Children's Services regarding developmental screening of children in child care.

☑ State/Territory agency responsible for public health.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, Child Care Licensing staff coordinate

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closely with Public Health to ensure child immunization requirements are met. Child Care Licensing staff share information about a computer program created by Public Health called "Self-Image." Providers input child immunization information into Self-Image. The program then provides notices to the child care provider of upcoming immunizations, provides information about the appropriate timetables for obtaining immunizations, alerts providers as to whether or not the children in their care are current with their immunizations, etc. Public Health staff audit the immunization records of select facilities each year. They forward their results to Child Care Licensing staff. If a facility receives 100% compliance on their audit, Child Care Licensing staff do not audit the records as well. State Epidemiology contacts Child Care Licensing staff annually for a current list of licensed facilities to survey compliance with immunization requirements. If State Epidemiology does not receive a response from facilities, they notify Child Care Licensing staff and licensing follows up to ensure compliance. Licensing also coordinates with State Epidemiology to ensure immunizations which are checked while on-site by Child Care Licensing staff reflect current standards and best practice. Public Health staff periodically provides immunizations on-site at child care facilities, participates in health and safety training for child care providers, assists in responding to health related outbreaks in child care facilities, and provides on-site health consultation.

State/Territory agency responsible for mental health.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), coordinates with the agencies responsible for mental health areas concerning children. These are: the Division of Behavioral Health Division, Operations Manager and Program Coordinator; and the Office of Children's Services, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Manager. Links to both agencies and their mental health programs for children are listed on the CCPO's website.

State/Territory agency responsible for child welfare.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), regularly coordinates with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) regarding allegations of abuse or neglect related to child care facilities and also for Child Protective Services checks. The CCPO entered into a Reimbursable Service Agreement (RSA) with the OCS to cover child care costs to foster

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parents and unlicensed relative caregivers who are working or actively seeking work, and who may not otherwise be eligible for child care assistance and also to pay child care costs for children in need of protective services. Additionally, OCS via a RSA provides funding to the Lead Agency to support the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry, Strengthening Families and the Alaska Pyramid Partnership Project.

State/Territory liaison for military child care programs.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), coordinates with a representative of military child care programs through participation on the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee. Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, employs a worker who serves as both the SEED Director and as a Military Liaison to increase child care capacity for military families and coordinate with Military child care as well as state agencies, such as the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Department of Education and Early Development, and Child Care Licensing. This person also participates on early learning teams.

State/Territory agency responsible for employment services/workforce development.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, Division of Public Assistance (DPA), is also the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agency for the State of Alaska and works closely with Work Services Providers in developing job opportunities for all Alaskans, while focusing on families on TANF. Child Care is acknowledged as a necessary support for families entering and remaining in the work force. Information about child care resources is available at DPA Field Services offices throughout the state. Work Services Providers receive child care information training for use as part of their resource portfolio to work with families. Work Services Providers request child care coverage for Parent's Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) I families through the CCPO. CCPO Eligibility Staff issue authorizations (certificates) for families receiving PASS I child care assistance.

The CCPO oversees the grant for an on-site child care center in a busy DPA Field Services Office in downtown Anchorage. The child care center is operated by the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency. This partnership allows the CCR&R to provide

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consumer education and child care referrals to customers of the DPA office. It also allows the participants to participate in self-sufficiency services.

State/Territory agency responsible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), is housed within the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) where the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is also administered. The CCDF State Administrator serves on the DPA Leadership Team and attends regular management meetings. Quality and accessible child care is an integral part of the Division's mission and child care continues its integration into the work of the Division. The co-location of child care programs and the TANF agency in the same division has allowed the Child Care Assistance Program for TANF families and the Child Care Assistance Program for non-TANF families to be better integrated and aligned. Three Public Assistance Analysts' within the CCPO work with Parents Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) I, the child care assistance part of TANF by: providing training, technical assistance and policy clarification to any entity which administers PASS I, which may be located in the Division of Public Assistance or be a Work Services Provider or grantee; participating as needed on monitors for work services for the child care portion; attending regular partners meetings with Work Services Providers; and teleconferencing regularly with DPA staff, including Eligibility Technicians within the CCPO who administer PASS I child care assistance. Eligibility Technicians within the CCPO work with PASS I by: issuing child care authorizations (certificates) to eligible families; and determining eligibility for providers wishing to provide care to children whose parent(s) are receiving PASS I child care assistance. PASS II/III grantees assist the coordination of families transitioning to and from PASS I. Accounting staff within the CCPO work and Child Care Assistance Program PASS II/III grantees work with PASS I by receiving billings and making payments to PASS I providers statewide. PASS I Policy is has been integrated into the new draft of the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual and will be implemented once proposed regulations are adopted. This coordination facilitates increased supply of full-day/ full-year services; aligned eligibility policies; blended funding; and access to more training and technical assistance resourced shared across agencies.

☐ State/Territory community agencies	s serving refugee	or immigrant families
Describe:		

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Provider groups or associations.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) coordinates with the Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children via their local affiliates to present information about programs administered by the CCPO at the annual early care and learning conferences held in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. Local affiliates include: Northern Interior Alaska- Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC); Anchorage AEYC; and AEYC- Southeast Alaska. The CCPO also coordinates with the Alaska Family Child Care Association to present information about programs administered by the CCPO at their annual conference held in Anchorage. These efforts to coordinate, facilitate information sharing across agencies and with providers, and promote networking and partnership between providers, local affiliates and the Lead Agency. Additionally, a member of the Alaska Family Child Care Association participates on the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee along with Lead Agency representatives and other early care and learning stakeholders.

☐Worker organizations.
Describe:
_
Parent groups or organizations.
Describe:
Other.
Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), coordinates with the Lead Agency's Health Care Services, Certification and Licensing, Alaska Background Check Program (BCP) pertaining to criminal history background checks for legally exempt and licensed child care providers. CCPO staff meet monthly with BCP staff to share information, discuss processes and procedures, problem solve or clarify issues, etc. This coordination helps reduce predictable risk of harm to children in care and promotes safe, healthy environments for children. Additionally, this coordination promotes consistency across the Lead Agency regarding the administration of criminal history background checks for vulnerable populations being served by the Lead Agency.

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1.5 Optional Use of Combined Funds

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that States and Territories have the option to combine funding for CCDF child care services with funding for any of the required programs listed in 1.4.1. These include programs operating at the Federal, State and local levels for children in preschool programs, tribal early childhood programs, and other early childhood programs, including those serving infants and toddlers with disabilities, homeless children, and children in foster care. (658E(c)(2)(O))(ii)) Combining funds could include blending multiple funding streams, pooling funds, or layering funds together from multiple funding streams in an effort to expand and/or enhance services for children and families to allow for delivery of comprehensive high quality care that meets the needs of children and families. For example, State/Territory agencies may use multiple funding sources to offer grants or contracts to programs to deliver services; a State/Territory may allow county/local government to use coordinated funding streams; or policies may be in place that allow local programs to layer CCDF funds with additional funding sources to pay for full-day, full-year child care that meets Early Head Start/Head Start or State/Territory pre-kindergarten requirements in addition to State/Territory child care licensing requirements. As a reminder, per the OMB Compliance Supplement governing audits

(https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133_compliance_supplement_2014), CCDF funds may be used in collaborative efforts with Head Start (CFDA 93.600) programs to provide comprehensive child care and development services for children who are eligible for both programs. In fact, the coordination and collaboration between Head Start and the CCDF is mandated by sections 640(g)(2)(D) and (E), and 642(c) of the Head Start Act (42 USC 9835(g)(2)(D) and (E); 42 USC 9837(c)) in the provision of full working day, full calendar year comprehensive services (42 USC 9835(a)(5)(v)). In order to implement such collaborative programs, which share, for example, space, equipment or materials, grantees may blend several funding streams so that seamless services are provided.

1.5.1 Will you combine CCDF funds with the funds for any program with which you coordinate (described in 1.4.1)?

Yes, If yes, describe at a minimum:

How do you define "combine"

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, defines "combine" as bringing together of allowable and available resources.

Which funds will you combine

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State General Funds, and CCDF

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funds.

Goal(s) of combining funds (why?) and expected outcomes, such as extending the day or year of services available (i.e., full-day, full-year programming for working families), smoothing transitions for children, enhancing and aligning quality of services, linking comprehensive services to children in child care or developing the supply of child care for vulnerable populations

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, combines Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds with CCDF funds to maximize the number of children and families that can be served. Additionally, State General Funds assist with administrative costs associated with service delivery above the 5% allowed for CCDF and to meet Maintenance of Effort and Matching requirements.

Method of fund allocation (how you will be combining multiple sets of funding, such as at the State/Territory level, local level, program level?)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Direct Services and TANF Transfers to CCDF, as well as State General Funds will be combined at the State level to maximize service delivery of programs administered by the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

How are the funds tracked and method of oversight

Funds are tracked at the State level through the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS). Reports pulled from these systems as well as monthly, quarterly and annual audits and reporting facilitate oversight of expenditures.

N	O.

1.6 Public-Private Partnerships

The CCDBG Act of 2014 adds a new provision that requires States and Territories to describe in the Plan how the State/Territory encourages partnerships among State/Territory and public agencies, tribal organizations, private entities, faith based organizations and/or community-based organizations to leverage existing service delivery systems for child care and development services and to increase the supply and quality of child care services for children through age 12, such as by implementing voluntary shared services alliance models (i.e., cooperative agreement among providers to pool resources to pay for shared fixed costs and operation). (658E(c)(2)(P)) ACF expects these types of partnerships to leverage public and

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private resources to further the goals of reauthorization.

1.6.1 Describe the entities with whom and the levels at which the State/Territory is partnering (level - State/Territory, county/local, and/or programs), the goals of the partnerships, method of partnering. Include in your description examples of activities that have resulted from partnerships with other State/Territory and public agencies, tribal organizations, private entities, faith based organizations or community-based organizations, and how the partnerships are expected to leverage existing service delivery systems for child care and development services and to increase the supply and quality of child care services.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), collaborates and coordinates with Best Beginnings, a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaskan children begin school ready to succeed. CCPO staff and staff from Best Beginnings participate jointly on several early care and learning regular committees to increase supply and quality of child care services: Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council; Strengthening Families Leadership Team; Alaska Pyramid Partnership Leadership Team; System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee; and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) Stakeholder Committee.

Best Beginnings supports and implements the following initiatives:

- Best Beginnings is the statewide umbrella organization for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, working closely with participating communities and technical assistance partners to create or expand Imagination Libraries in Alaska;
- Early Childhood Partnerships and Public Engagement;
- Best Beginnings is piloting early childhood partnerships in locations around Alaska, in order to build a comprehensive early childhood network;
- To encourage all Alaskans to join the effort to ensure all children begin school ready to succeed, Best Beginnings has undertaken a multi-channel media campaign;
- Babies on Track Video and Companion Baby Board Books;
- Best Beginnings has produced Babies on Track, a 14-minute DVD for parents, along with two baby board books: Our Alaska Family (photographs of baby faces) and Let's Talk Alaska! (Alaska objects). Using delightful images of Alaska babies on location around the state, the video and books foster early learning and healthy brain development at home in easy, convenient ways;
- StoryTRACKS;
- Imagine a path lined with sign posts, and on each sign is a page from a children's picture book. As your family moves along - walking, biking, strolling - you and your children can read the story. Reading, Nature, and healthy activity - combined;
- Multilingual Early Learning Activity Guides; and
- In 2007, the Alaska Children's Trust awarded Best Beginnings a 4-year grant to produce family-friendly activity guides based on the ELGs, in languages other than English.

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1.7 Coordination with Local or Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Systems

States may use funds to support or establish Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R systems (also see section 7.4). If they do, there are specific requirements for CCR&Rs (658E(c)(3)(B)(iii)) These include:

- Provide families with information on a full range of child care options (including faith-based, community-based child care centers and family child care homes, nontraditional hours and emergency child care centers) in their local area or region
- To the extent practicable, work directly with families who receive child care assistance to offer the families support and assistance in making an informed decision about child care options in an effort to ensure families are enrolling their children in the most appropriate child care setting to suit their needs and that is of high quality as determined by the State/Territory
- Collect data and provide information on the coordination of services and supports, including services provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities
- Collect data and provide information on the supply of and demand for child care services in local areas or regions of the State/Territory and submit such information to the State/Territory
- Work to establish partnerships with public agencies and private entities, including faithbased and community-based child care centers and family child care homes providers, to increase the supply and quality of child care services in the State/Territory
- As appropriate, coordinate their activities with the activities of the Lead Agency and/or local agencies that administer CCDF.

Nothing in statute prohibits States from using CCR&Ragencies to conduct or provide additional services beyond those required by statute above.

1.7.1 Does the State fund a system of local or regional CCR&R organizations?

Yes. The State/Territory funds a CCR&R system. See also related follow-up questions in Section 7.1 and 7.4.

If yes, the local or regional referral agency is required to do all of the activities listed here.

See also related follow-up questions in Section 7.1 and 7.4. Does the CCR&R system provide all services identified below:

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The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), administers child care resource and referral services via a grant with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread. thread sub-grants to Thrivalaska in Fairbanks, serving Interior/Northern Alaskan communities and the Association for the Education of Young Children-Southeast Alaska (AEYC-SEA) in Juneau, serving communities in Southeast Alaska. The following details the services provided through thread and other activities for which the CCPO partners with thread:

1. Provide families with information on a full range of child care options (including faith-based, community-based child care centers and family child care homes, nontraditional hours and emergency child care centers) in their local area or region.

thread provides families with information on a full range of child care options in their community through the "Find Early Care & Learning in Alaska" on-line tool from their website. This tool is an individualized search from thread's database and provides program information including:

- Type of care (including if a licensed or Head Start program);
- Distance (miles within the family's local community);
- Ages served;
- Days and hours of operation;
- Annual schedule:
- Environment (such as faith based, circle/story time, fenced yard, field trips, limited TV, planned activities, outdoor equipment, and pet free);
- Safety certifications/training;
- Transportation options;
- Meals, if provided; and
- Types of financial assistance, if accepted (such as military, TANF, Tribal, Office of Children's Services if a child is in child protective custody).

thread answers many important questions about the child care programs in their database such as vacancies, fees, policies, and caregiver experience. Early care and education referrals are also made accessible through a toll free telephone number, or by emailing or faxing a referral form, thread also provides enhanced referrals to families with children who may have special needs.

2. To the extent practicable, work directly with families who receive child care assistance to offer the families support and assistance in making an informed decision about child care options in an effort to ensure families are enrolling their

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children in the most appropriate child care setting to suit their needs and that is of high quality as determined by the State/Territory.

Every family is referred to thread during the child care assistance application process for child care search and referral services to assist families in enrolling their children in the most appropriate child care setting to suit their needs, and that is of high quality. thread works directly with families to provide an individualized list of early care and education programs based on their specific needs. thread offers information on:

- Selecting quality child care, preschool, or Head Start programs;
- Information on Quality Indicators including teacher/child ratio, staff qualifications and training, and family involvement;
- Understanding different types of care settings;
- Qualifications of early care and education providers;
- Current program vacancy information;
- Customized referrals for families who have children with special needs;
- Tips on working with your child's teacher; and
- Other community resources.

thread also offers guidance for parents on how to identify and choose quality care and education program through materials such as the "Quality Care Card" and the "Quality Early Care & Education: A Guide for Alaska's Families". Other resources for parents include:

- Child development and parenting workshops;
- Networking opportunities with other families;
- Free lending library, including books on parenting, children's books, and toys; and
- Personalized support and information around parenting issues, child development, and community referrals through the "thread line service"
- 3. Collect data and provide information on the coordination of services and supports, including services provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children with disabilities.

thread collaborates with the CCPO to provider consultation, resources, and referrals for children with disabilities participating in the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) . thread's website contains links to Alaska IN!, administered by the CCPO to give extra support to families with children who have special needs in accessing inclusive care and offer supplemental funding to providers for training, needed accommodations, and support to help them meet the child's individual needs. The purpose of Alaska IN! is to enhance the skills of the child care provider, promote inclusive child care practices in child care settings, and ensure families participating in the Child Care Assistance

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Program, including children with special needs, have access to child care. This also helps ensure children with special needs have a stable and consistent child care provider who can meet their individual needs.

thread coordinates with the CCPO to provide the following for families applying for and participating in Alaska IN!:

- Providing outreach, education, and enhanced referral services to parents of children with special needs regarding child care options;
- Providing child care resource and referral resources to the provider and/or parent when additional needs are identified;
- Providing referrals for additional resources not offered by thread to the provider and/or parent when additional needs are identified;
- Conducting on-site observation of the identified child while in care with the child care provider;
- Consulting with the child care provider and parent in the development of the Child Care Provider Inclusion Plan to ensure the accommodations and/or training identified meet the child's specific needs;
- Increasing caregiver knowledge and expertise in the care of children with special needs;
- Prioritizing and providing technical assistance, training, and support to providers who care for children with special needs;
- Recruiting and training child care providers to increase capacity to care for children with special needs;
- Maintaining a file for each child that contains the supporting documentation of the recommendations made for additional services needed for the *Child Care Provider Inclusion Plan*;
- Assisting providers to implement child specific inclusionary practices; and
- Contacting the CCPO or Municipality of Anchorage child care licensing office, depending on the provider's location, when a concern is identified.

thread's website also contains links to the Child Care Assistance Program and the Alaska IN! brochure. Data regarding Alaska IN! is housed with the CCPO.

4. Collect data and provide information on the supply of and demand for child care services in local areas or regions of the State/Territory and submit such information to the State/Territory.

thread collects data on the supply and demand through its child care provider database. Providers offer their information voluntarily to this database, fulfilling on the available supply in communities. Through the "Find Early Care & Learning in Alaska" on-line tool, thread provides families with information on a full range of child care options in their

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community. This tool is an individualized search from thread's database and provides program information including:

- Type of care (including if a licensed or Head Start program);
- Distance (miles within the family's local community);
- Ages served;
- Days and hours of operation;
- Annual schedule;
- Environment (such as faith based, circle/story time, fenced yard, field trips, limited TV, planned activities, outdoor equipment, and pet free);
- Safety certifications/training;
- Transportation options;
- Meals, if provided; and
- Types of financial assistance, if accepted (such as military, TANF, Tribal, Office of Children's Services if a child is in child protective custody).

thread also provides information in their database such as vacancies, fees, policies, and caregiver experience. Early care and education referrals are also made accessible through a toll free telephone number, or by emailing or faxing a referral form.

thread follows supply and demand trends by tracking the ratio of children who have all of the adults in their household in the workforce (census data) compared to the number of licensed/regulated spaces. Currently, this is less than 50% and there are currently less than half of the spaces needed, or less than one space for every two children who potentially need care in Alaska. Aggregate data is provided to the CCPO on a quarterly and annual basis regarding supply and demand for communities with the highest need where thread provides services.

5. Work to establish partnerships with public agencies and private entities, including faith- based and community-based child care centers and family child care homes providers, to increase the supply and quality of child care services in the State/Territory.

thread has established partnerships with public agencies and private entities such as the CCPO, Head Start and Early Head Start, Best Beginnings, Association for the Education of Young Children (AYEC), Tribal CCDF agencies, school districts, communities (including rural areas) and cities, social service agencies, and others to provide updated resource information for families and child care providers. Community events and conferences are listed on thread's website as well as made available through regular announcements to families, providers, and the public. These efforts work to increase supply and quality of child care services through consumer education and trainings.

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Partnerships with early care and education programs promote recruitment and retention through technical assistance and consultation efforts. Also, thread has worked to establish two community based centers in Fairbanks Alaska: Thrivalaska Birth to 5 Head Start, and Thrivalaska School Age Program.

thread houses Alaska's early childhood professional development system, known as the System for Early Education Development (SEED). thread also provides professional development opportunities through support and funding to child care providers participating in SEED, including those in licensed Centers, Group Homes, Homes and license exempt providers receiving CCDF payments to increase quality of child care services.

6. As appropriate, coordinate their activities with the activities of the Lead Agency and/or local agencies that administer CCDF.

thread coordinates and collaborates with the CCPO regarding many activities and committees.

- 1. The System for Early Development Committee (SEED), which includes workgroups for:
 - SEED Registry: thread manages the statewide early childhood professional registry tracking professional development achievements and advancements for over 2000 early educators and Infant Learning professionals.
 - SEED, Career Ladder: thread manages the SEED Career Ladder. In partnership with the CCPO and other professional development entities including higher education, thread ensures the career ladder supports professional development advancement through multiple pathways. The Alaska SEED Career Ladder is a path articulating advancement in the early care and learning profession and is common to professionals in licensed child care centers, homes, or group homes, school district Pre-Elementary and Elementary schools, private Pre-Elementary and Elementary schools, military child care, tribal child care, Early Head Start/Head Start, and in-home visiting. The career ladder is reviewed and updated every two years to ensure it aligns with child care licensing standards and is meeting the intention of advancing and supporting professionals in the field. The SEED career ladder is an active document that is reviewed and updated by the SEED Professional Development Committee every two years, and was most recently updated in 2015.

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- Alaska's Core Knowledge and Competencies: thread and the CCPO have collaborated to implement Alaska's Core Knowledge and Competencies and ensure these align with the SEED Career Ladder.
- The SEED Professional Development Committee has a subcommittee of members specifically for looking at data, conducting research, and making recommendations for updates to the SEED Career Ladder, or aligning credentials and trainings of other programs.
- Training and Trainer Approval System: thread manages the SEED Training and Trainer Approval System currently in development to help strengthen the quality of training available and offered in Alaska. thread has collaborated with the CCPO to design and implement the Training Approval System in July 2016. The mission of the Training Approval System in Alaska is to Increase compensation and benefits for the early care and learning workforce and to improve the quality and content of training and education for the early care and learning workforce. Building a comprehensive training approval system increases the consistency of training content and qualifications across the state. The design process has also been inclusive of many training entities in Alaska including higher education, the Family Child Care Association, the early childhood conference organizers, the After School Network, and other school age stakeholders.
- 2. Professional Development Reimbursements and Travel Grants: thread manages funds to support financial reimbursements to early educators with qualifying professional development expenses. These funds are designed to support a continuum of accessing higher education and advanced professional development opportunities. Additionally, these resources reduce financial barriers for accessing professional development opportunities.
- 3. thread and the CCPO have collaborated in the design, development, and implementation of Learn and Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System. Learn & Grow will launch in July of 2016 to help advance and support continuous quality improvement in licensed early care and learning programs. thread has coordinated with the CCPO to provide Learn & Grow orientations at all of the statewide National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conferences and to make a monthly orientation webinar available for child care providers and interested families.
- 4. thread receives a grant from the CCPO to provide child care services to clients accessing Division of Public Assistance programs. The child care space is located within

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the Gambell Field Services location in Anchorage and is available for use by any family receiving services in the building.

- 5. thread works to support Child Care Resource and Referral services for all early care and learning programs including tribal child care programs. thread has worked to develop outreach materials and build relationships with tribal child care programs and associated tribes with the goal to share and optimize resources and strengthen our early care and learning system, thread currently partners with Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Artic Slope Native Association, and Bristol Bay Native Association to coordinate professional development training for their early child professionals as well as through providing technical assistance to support their efforts in continuous quality improvement.
- 6. thread partners with the CCPO to join Child Care Licensing Chats or collaborate on trainings when possible. Child Care Licensing and thread also have monthly meetings to collaborate and share information.
- 7. thread also coordinates with and informs the CCPO of events and outreach available in communities on a regular basis through meetings, announcements, newsletters, and on their website.

No. The State/Territory does not fund a CCR&R system and has no plans to establish
Use section 7.4 to describe plans, if any, to establish a CCR&R system.

1.8 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that States must include a <u>Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan</u> for coordination of activities with the State/Territory human services agency, emergency management agency, child care licensing agency, State/Territory local resource and referral agencies, and the State Advisory Council (SAC) or other state-designated cross-agency body if there is no SAC. (658E(c)(2)(U)) The Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan must include:

- Guidelines for continuing CCDF assistance and child care services after a disaster, which
 may include provision of temporary child care, and temporary operating standards for child
 care after a disaster.
- Requirements that child care providers receiving CCDF have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with

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- families, continuity of operations, accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions.
- Requirements that child care providers receiving CCDF have in place procedures for staff and volunteer emergency preparedness training and practice drills.

1.8.1 Describe the status of State's Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016. If applicable, describe additional ways the State/Territory addresses the needs of children receiving CCDF before, during and after a disaster or emergency, not already incorporated into the Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan. If available, please provide a link to the disaster plan

If applicable, describe additional ways the State/Territory addresses the needs of children receiving CCDF before, during and after a disaster or emergency, not already incorporated into the Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan. If available, please provide a link to the disaster plan

Not implemented. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses here will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 12/31/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has implemented the following requirements:

 Guidelines for continuing CCDF assistance and child care services after a disaster, which may include provision of temporary child care, and temporary operating standards for child care after a disaster. Child Care

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- providers may request an "expedited emergency" variance under regulation 7 AAC 10.9510 General variance, authorizing a transfer of their license to a temporary facility location. AS 47.32.080 allows for the transfer of a license if authorized by the department. 7 AAC 57.010(b) Applicability, defines a child care facility.
- Licensed and license-exempt child care providers receiving CCDF have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations, accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions. Both these provider types still need provisions for shelter-in-place and lock-down procedures. This provision will be implemented by September 30, 2016.
- Licensed child care providers have in place procedures for staff and volunteer emergency preparedness training and practice drills. This provision is being added for license-exempt providers through a regulation revision to the 7 AAC 41 Child Care Assistance Program that will require practice drills and pre-service training for disaster preparedness. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented child care providers receiving CCDF have in place procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lock-down, communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations, accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Emergency Evacuation form (for licensed and license-exempt child care providers) to include provisions for shelter-in-place and lock-down procedures.

- Convene policy and form revision meetings to add these two requirements. Meetings will continue until task is met.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing designee to ensure consistency for new forms/policy.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The

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Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Emergency Evacuation form (for licensed and license-exempt child care providers) to include provisions for shelter-in-place and lock-down procedures.

- Post to Child Care Program Office website.
- Include in child care provider application packets for Child Care Assistance and Child Care Licensing.
- Staff training.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented child care providers receiving CCDF have in place procedures for staff and volunteer emergency preparedness training and practice drills.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include requiring emergency preparedness training and practice drills for all child care providers participating in the program.

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- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Develop orientation (pre-service) training for child care providers to include emergency preparedness training.

- Collaborate with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program (designee).

Projected start date for each activity: 04/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement training and/or ensure access to relevant training resources for child care providers to include emergency preparedness training.

- Collaborate with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program (designee).
- Train staff.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement requirement for child care providers to obtain emergency preparedness training and conduct practice drills.

- Update forms.
- Update Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual and post to Child Care Program Office website.
- Include in child care provider Child Care Assistance Orientation.
- Train staff.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

2 Promote Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education

Parents are their children's most important teacher and advocate. State and Territory child care systems interact with parents in multiple ways, therefore presenting many opportunities to engage and inform families. Child care providers can serve as convenient and trusted sources of information for parents and family members on child development and community supports and services. State/Territory and local child care assistance systems should be designed to promote seamless linkages to useful information and other child- and family-services, such as during subsidy intake and redetermination processes and when parents utilize child care resource and referral or QRIS agencies. Outreach and consumer education is an ongoing process and is expected to cover the entire age span covered by CCDF from birth through age 12. The CCDBG Act of 2014 includes key purposes that address the role of parents as child care consumers who need information to make informed choices regarding the services that best suit their needs. A new purpose of CCDBG is to "promote involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings." States and Territories have the opportunity to consider how information can be provided to parents through the child care assistance system, partner agencies, and child care sites that will support their role as their children's teacher and advocate. Key new provisions include:

- 1. 1. The plan must certify that States and Territories will collect and disseminate consumer and provider education information to CCDF parents, providers, and the general public, including information about:
 - a) the availability of child care assistance,
 - b) the quality of child care providers (if available),
 - c) Other programs (specifically Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start and Early Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)) for which families may also qualify.

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- d) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs and services,
- e) Research and best practices in child development, and
- f) State/Territory policies regarding social- emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on the expulsion of preschool-aged children (children from birth to five for purposes of this requirement) from early childhood programs receiving CCDF.
- 2. Information related to the health and safety of children in child care settings. The plan must certify that the State/Territory will make public certain information about the results of health and safety monitoring (described in section 5) using a website that is consumer-friendly and in an easily accessible format, including:
- a) Provider-specific information: 1) results of monitoring and inspection reports, including those due to major substantiated complaints; 2) last date of inspection; and 3) information on corrective actions taken (if applicable).
- b) Information about: 1) the annual number of deaths; 2) the annual number of serious injuries; and 3) annual number of incidences of substantiated child abuse in child care settings.
- c) State/Territory processes for: 1) licensing child care providers; 2) conducting background checks and the offenses that would keep a provider from being allowed to care for children; and 3) conducting monitoring and inspections of child care providers.

2.1 Information about Child Care Financial Assistance Program Availability and Application Process

Lead Agencies must inform parents of eligible children and the general public of the process by which they can apply for and potentially receive child care services. (658D(b)(1)(A)), 658E(c)(2)(E)(i)(1))

2.1.1 Describe how the State/Territory informs families of availability of services.

a) How does the State/Territory identify populations and areas of potentially eligible families (e.g., using available federal, State/Territory and local needs assessments to identify potentially eligible families?)

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), uses the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance's (DPA) *Application for Services (Gen 50C)* as a tool to target low to moderate income families who may need child care services. The application includes the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), which is TANF. Families eligible for ATAP are automatically eligible for Child Care

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Assistance if it is needed to support eligible activities such as job search, employment, training and education. DPA also attends a number of conferences and initiatives annually that targets families who are potentially eligible for public assistance programs (such as the Project Homeless Connect, Alaska Federation of Natives, Elders and Youth Conference and Veterans Administration Stand Down conferences). Child Care Assistance Program Designees (5) also attend conferences and meetings targeting families in their communities to share program information such as brochures and provide *Child Care Assistance Applications*.

b) What partners help with outreach? For example, child care resource and referral agencies, home visitors, pediatricians, faith-based services, State/Territory or local agencies and organizations or other familiar and safe access points serving vulnerable or low-income populations.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread; five Child Care Assistance Program Designees who administer the program statewide via five service delivery areas; the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing office, a grantee of the Lead Agency, who administers the child care licensing program within the municipality; the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance Field Service Offices, statewide; Tribal entities who provide CCDF child care services; the Office of Children's Services pertaining to child care for children in child protective services and for foster parents; WIC; Department of Education and Early Development; other early care and learning partners/stakeholders, as applicable.

c) What outreach strategies does the Lead Agency use (e.g., media campaigns, State/Territory website, or other electronic outreach?

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has posted information regarding the Child Care Assistance, Child Care Licensing, Child Care Grant, and Alaska Inclusive Child Care Programs to our website to include: written materials (office locations and contact information, brochures, forms, and applications); current events and services; applicable policies and procedures, applicable state regulations and statutes; and resource links. The Child Care Program Office also distributes event and resource information through email Broadcasts to families, providers, and partner agencies. Because the Child Care Program Office is housed within the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance (DPA), information for our programs are also posted to the DPA website (DPAweb). The DPAweb also has a link to the CCPO's website. In this way, families seeking or participating in other assistance programs, such as the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program, Medicaid, SNAP, Adult Public Assistance, Senior Benefits, Heating Assistance,

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Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance, General Relief Assistance and WIC will have information.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, also posts to their website the Child Care Assistance application and a link to the CCPO's website.

The CCPO and Child Care Assistance Program Designees engage families through participating in statewide Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children conferences as well as other conferences to provide information regarding the Child Care Assistance, and other CCPO programs such as the Alaska Inclusive Child Care, Child Care Licensing, Child Care Grant, and the Alaska statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, *thread*. CCAP Designees also participate in outreach at local conferences and meetings in their communities. Additionally, the CCPO Child Care Licensing Team provides statewide Licensing Chats throughout the year on a variety of topics related to Child Care Licensing regulations, best health and safety practices, CCR&R information, and information for parents.

The CCPO Child Care Assistance Team also provides outreach to partner agencies and programs who also work with the same population as those needing or seeking child care services: The Office of Children's Services - Infant Learning Program and the Programs for Infants & Children (PIC).

2.1.2 How can parents apply for services? Check all that apply.

Electronically via online application, mobile app or email.

Provide link http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/parents.aspx. Families may download an application from this website but must submit it in person, by mail, or fax to a Child Care Assistance Office.

In-person interview or orientation.

Describe agencies where these may occur:

In-person interviews may occur at one of the five statewide Child Care Assistance Offices. These offices are located in the communities of Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai, Wasilla, and Fairbanks.

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☑ Mail
At the child care site
At a child care resource and referral agency.
Through kiosks or online portals at related State/Territory/local agency or organization
serving low-income populations.
Describe:
_
Through a coordinated application process (e.g., application is linked to other benefits
program to allow parents to apply for several programs at one time).

Describe:

Phone

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) uses a comprehensive *Application for Services* (Gen 50C) which includes a check box for "child care". These applications are screened for all services an individual is applying for and if "child care" is marked, the family is referred to their local Child Care Assistance office. If the individual is applying for the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (TANF) then they are screened for child care services as part of their Employment Assessment and develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan. Additionally, Child Care Assistance Applications can be submitted to multiple Child Care Assistance or DPA office locations.

Families caring only for children in protective services, including foster care children, through the Office of Children's Services (OSC) can apply through OCS.

Other strategies.

Describe:

Statewide, families may download a Child Care Assistance Program application from Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R Agency), thread's, website, but cannot submit an application on-line at this time.

In addition to having a CCR&R office, thread also provides Child Care Assistance services to the Northern region of the State of Alaska at another location. Families may submit an application to thread's CCR&R or Child Care Assistance offices, located in

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Fairbanks, but eligibility will be determined by the Child Care Assistance office.

2.2 Consumer Education Website

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a purpose of the child care program "to promote involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings." (658A(b)(3)) The consumer education requirements address multiple topics that parents and family members need in order to make informed choices and act as their most important teacher and advocate. Lead agencies must certify that they will collect and disseminate the following information through resource and referral agencies or other means. (658E(c)(2)(E))

2.2.1 The State/Territory certifies that it collects and disseminates the following information to parents, providers and the general public:

- information about the availability of the full diversity of child care services that will promote informed child care choices,
- Availability of child care assistance,
- Quality of child care providers (if available),
- Other programs (specifically Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start and Early Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for which families may also qualify.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs and services,
- Research and best practices in child development, including social and emotional development, early childhood development, meaningful parent and family engagement, and physical health and development (particularly healthy eating and physical activity), and
- State/Territory policies regarding the social-emotional behavioral health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on expulsion of preschool-aged children, in early childhood programs receiving child care assistance (CCDF).

Yes. The State/Territory certifies as of March 1, 2016 that it collects and disseminates the
above information to parents, providers and the general public. Describe using 2.2.2 through
2.2.7 below.

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan

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for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 09/30/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has implemented the following requirements:

- Information about the availability of the full diversity of child care services that will promote informed child care choices;
- Availability of child care assistance;
- Other programs (specifically Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start and Early Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for which families may also qualify;
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs and services; and
- Research and best practices in child development, including all domains of early childhood development, including social and emotional development, cognitive, and physical health and development (particularly healthy eating and physical activity), and meaningful parent and family engagement.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Quality of child care providers (if available)

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Convene a series of meetings with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource

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and Referral Network, and other early care and learning partners/stakeholders to design Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System, called Learn & Grow. Stakeholder meetings will continue until task is met.

- Quarterly and annual strategic planning meetings.
- Design reporting and data collection methods.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2013 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Partners include: State System Specialist for Region X of the Office of Child Care, Child Care State Systems Specialist Network; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; and other early care and learning partners/stakeholders.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Marketing and outreach to enroll child care providers and train child care licensing specialists regarding Learn & Grow. The initial enrollment is through June 30, 2016 but will continue.

- Orientations (in-person and through webinars) for child care providers regarding Learn & Grow.
- Distribute marketing materials to child care providers
- Create Learn & Grow website (accessible to the public)
- Presentations at conferences for child care providers

Projected start date for each activity: 01/29/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 06/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Train child care licensing specialists regarding Learn & Grow.

- Training for licensing staff so they have information and materials to distribute to child care providers
- Distribute marketing materials to child care providers and licensing staff

Projected start date for each activity: 01/29/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 06/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Create Learn & Grow Policies and Procedures Manual.

- 3/2016 Convene a series of meetings with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network to create a Learn & Grow Policies and Procedures Manual. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.
- 7/2016 Make the manual available on the Learn & Grow website.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

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thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented State/Territory policies regarding the social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children (which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on expulsion of preschool-aged children (children from birth to five for purposes of this requirement)) in early childhood programs receiving CCDF.)

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft policies regarding expulsion of preschool aged children.

- 6/2016 Convene policy meetings to update policies. Meetings will continue until task is met.
- 6/2016 Identify any policy areas needing to be revised.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete

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implementation of this activity

State System Specialist for Region X of the Office of Child Care, Child Care State Systems Specialist Network; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; and other early care and learning partners/stakeholders.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Conduct research for areas as needed in policy drafting process.

- 6/2016 Coordinate with State System Specialist for technical assistance.
- 6/2016 Coordinate with the Office of Children's Services.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

State System Specialist for Region X of the Office of Child Care, Child Care State Systems Specialist Network; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; and other early care and learning partners/stakeholders.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

- Includes training/outreach for child care providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Office of Child Care; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised policies.

- Post revised policies to Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/30/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Office of Child Care; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

2.2.2 Describe how the State/Territory makes information availabe about the full diversity of child care services that will promote informed child care choices, including consumer-friendly strategies such as materials that are culturally responsive and in multiple languages as needed that reflect the literacy levels of consumers, and are easy to access

a) Describe how the State/Territory makes information about the full diversity of child care services available to 1) parents of eligible children, 2) providers and 3) the general public The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), makes information about the full diversity of eligible provider types available to families, providers, and the general public through the CCPO's website to include: written materials (brochures, forms, and

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applications); current events and services; applicable policies and procedures, applicable state regulations and statutes; and resource links. Because the Child Care Program Office is under the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance (DPA), information for our programs are also posted to the DPA's website (DPAweb). The DPAweb also has a link to the CCPO's website. In this way, families seeking or receiving other assistance programs, such as the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program, Medicaid, SNAP, Adult Public Assistance, Senior Benefits, Heating Assistance, Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance, and General Relief Assistance, will have information on Child Care Assistance and eligible child care provider types. Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network, thread, also posts to their website the Child Care Assistance application and a link to the CCPO's website.

Additionally, all parents applying for Child Care Assistance are made aware of the full diversity of child care services at the time of their interview (in-person or telephonically). All child care providers are made aware of the full diversity of child care services at the time of their Child Care Assistance Program Orientation and if becoming licensed, at their Child Care Licensing Orientation (in-person for initial licensure). If a parent indicates a need or asks for information about another state program, they are referred.

Parents, providers, and the general public seeking information are offered interpreter services if needed through a telephonic service (including multi-party), Linguistica International. This service is available through Child Care Assistance, Child Care Licensing, CCR&R and Child Care Program Office locations. Interpreter services are available Monday through Friday and offer over 250 languages. If a language is not immediately available, an interpreter is located and the individual contacted as soon as possible.

b) Describe what you provide and how (i.e., methods such as written materials, direct communication, etc.)

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), makes information about the full diversity of eligible provider types available to families, providers, and the general public through the CCPO's website to include: written materials (brochures, forms, and applications); current events and services; applicable policies and procedures, and applicable state regulations and statutes. There are also a links to "Child Care Resources" and "Child Care Reports and Alaska Child Care and Development Fund Plans" which include high quality publications regarding early care and learning. Some of these include (http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx):

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- Investing in Alaska's Young Children, Alaska Early Care and Learning: Public Policy Priorities 2012:
- Alaska Professional Development Plan for Early Care and Education Workforce (Alaska SEED) 2008;
- Early Learning Guidelines 2007;
- Full Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan 2006;
- Alaska Ready to Read, Ready to Learn Report 2006;
- Alaska's QRIS Report 2011; and
- Alaska's Quality Rating and Improvement System Final Report with Recommendations 2008.
- c) Describe who you partner with to make information about the full diversity of child care choices available

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, partners with: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread; the Child Care Assistance Program Designees who administer the program in five service delivery areas; State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance Field Service Offices (this includes Eligibility and Work Services staff working with TANF families).

- 2.2.3 Describe how the State/Territory makes information about the quality (such as through a quality rating and improvement system, if available, nationally-recognized accreditation, or other means) of child care services available to the public, including consumer-friendly strategies such as messages that are designed to engage intended audiences and are easy to understand
 - a) Describe how the State/Territory makes information about child care quality available to 1) parents of eligible children, 2) providers and 3) the general public Information about quality child care is made available through Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network, thread's, website and meetings with partners and stakeholders regarding Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System, Learn & Grow. Phase I of Learn & Grow (Levels 1 and 2 of a 5 level quality system) will be implemented on July 1, 2016. The stakeholder committee meets quarterly through webinars, and has an annual face to face meeting for updating the group and for strategic planning.

thread staff have presented Learn & Grow orientations at all of the statewide National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conferences: Northern in October

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2015, Southcentral in January 2016, and Southeast in March 2016. Additionally, thread began making a monthly webinar to provide an orientation for child care providers, statewide in January 2016. These orientation webinars are geared towards child care providers, however, families and any interested parties may attend. These monthly orientation webinars are free of charge and will continue to be available through implementation of Learn & Grow. As of April 2016, 105 child care providers have attended an orientation through a conference or webinar.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), along with thread, has provided training to child care licensing staff and will continue to do so throughout the implementation of Learn & Grow, to ensure child care licensing staff will be able to provide information to child care providers.

The Learn & Grow website contains information pertaining to the system, as well as contact information, for child care providers, teachers, families, partners, or anyone needing more information. This website also contains reports, data, and other resources pertaining to the importance of quality early care and education.

The CCPO's website also contains brochures on choosing child care that are easy to access and understand, located at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/forms.aspx. Additionally, the CCPO website contains resources to help parents make informed decision on choosing a provider, including the Chart of Eligible Providers, Guide to Provider Type Selections and the on-line List of Eligible Providers. The above information is accessible to parents, providers, and the general public and is located at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/eligible-providers.aspx.

b) Describe what you provide and how (i.e., methods such as written materials, direct communication, etc.)

A marketing and communication plan will be developed by June 30, 2016. This includes website development, which has been completed, and a policy and procedural manual for implementation of Phase 1, Levels 1 and 2. Currently, marketing materials have been distributed to: child care providers; child care licensing staff; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, staff; the thread Board of Directors; stakeholders; and partners. These materials include a Learn & Grow brochure, Get Ready for Learn & Grow, a Learn & Grow Standards document, and a 3-page informational document. Once

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Phase 1 has been implemented and childcare providers are enrolled, the marketing and communication campaign will include outreach for families.

The Learn & Grow website contains information pertaining to the system, as well as contact information, for child care providers, teachers, families, partners, or anyone needing more information. This website also contains reports, data, and other resources pertaining to the importance of quality early care and education and is located at: http://threadalaska.org/index.cfm/Early-Educators/Learn-&-Grow-%28Alaska%27s-QRIS%29.

thread began making a monthly webinar to provide an orientation for child care providers, statewide, in January 2016. These orientation webinars are geared towards child care providers, however, families and any interested parties may attend. These monthly orientation webinars are free of charge and will continue to be available through implementation of Learn & Grow.

c) Describe who you partner with to make information about child care quality available. To ensure information about child care quality is available, the Child Care Program Office partners with: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network, thread; the Child Care Licensing Program; the Child Care Assistance Program Designees who administer the program in five service delivery areas; State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance Field Service Offices (this includes Eligibility and Work Services staff working with TANF families).

2.2.4 Describe how the State/Territory shares information with eligible parents about other available human service programs.

For example, does the State/Territory share information about these other programs through linkages from the online application, universal applications, through intake process/front line workers, providers, child care resource and referral agencies or other trusted advisors such as home visitors, pediatricians, faith-based services, etc.? At a minimum, include in your description how you provide information to eligible parents, what you provide and by what methods, and which partners you work with to provide information about other available service programs.

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a) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Temporary Assistance". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in TANF services, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

b) Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and is noted as "Head Start and Early Head Start (Alaska Head Start Association)" and under Department of Education and Early Development as "Programs...". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

- c) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Heating Assistance". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in the Heating Assistance Programs, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links. Heating Assistance Programs include: the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP), and the Subsidized Rental Housing Utility Deposit (SRHUD).
- d) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP- formerly known as Food Stamps) Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Family Nutrition". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in SNAP, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.
- e) Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Family Nutrition". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

f) Child and Adult Care Food Program(CACFP)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page and under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page, as a bullet under Department of Education and Early Development as "Programs (Child Nutrition)". Also, if a

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parent indicates a specific need or interest in the CACFP, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

g) Medicaid

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Medicaid". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in any Medicaid programs, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

h) Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Denali KidCare". Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in Denali KidCare, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

i) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and is noted as "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)..." Also included are links to the "Parental Rights for Special Education" and the "Alaskan Special Education 2015 Parent Handbook" under "Department of Education and Early Development". Additionally, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest IDEA, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

- j) Other State/Federally Funded Child Care Programs (e.g., state pre-kindergarten)
 Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and includes linkages to the Alaska
 Department of Education and Early Development's programs such as:Child Nutrition;
 - Public School Choice, Standards;
 - Early Learning (Includes Head Start and Pre-Elementary); Educational Technology;
 - English Learners, Homeless Education;
 - Improving Basic Programs;
 - Migrant Education Program;
 - Neglected and Delinguent; and
 - Safe Supportive & Successful Schools; Special Education; and Suicide Awareness.

Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in other state or federally funded child care programs, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

k) Other early childhood programs (e.g., Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

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program)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and includes linkages to Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program and the Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Learning Program. The CCPO also administers the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) which is focused on increasing the quality and availability of inclusive child care programs for children with special needs. Information for this program is available on the Child Care Program Office website home page under "Information for Parents, Special Needs Child Care". Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, has information about Alaska IN! posted on their website, and information is shared at the time of interview or if a family appears to have a child with special needs.

Also, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in other early childhood programs, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

2.2.5 Describe how the State/Territory shares information with providers (where applicable) to link families to these other available human service programs.

For example, does the State/Territory provide information to providers through CCR&Routreach, as a condition of their contract or voucher agreement, through community-based hub agencies that partner with subsidy providers, county/local collaboration, through quality rating and improvements systems, etc?

a) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Temporary Assistance". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in TANF for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

b) Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and is noted as "Head Start and Early Head Start (Alaska Head Start Association)" and under Department of Education and Early

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Development as "Programs...". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

c) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Heating Assistance". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in the Heating Assistance Programs for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links. Heating Assistance Programs include: the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP), and the Subsidized Rental Housing Utility Deposit (SRHUD).

- d) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP- formerly known as Food Stamps) Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Family Nutrition". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in SNAP for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.
- e) Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Family Nutrition". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

f) Child and Adult Care Food Program(CACFP)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page and under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page, as a bullet under Department of Education and Early Development as "Programs (Child Nutrition)". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in the CACFP for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

g) Medicaid

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Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Medicaid". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in any Medicaid Programs for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

h) Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located on the home page as "Denali KidCare". Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in Denali KidCare for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

i) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and is noted as "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)..." Also included are links to the "Parental Rights for Special Education" and the "Alaskan Special Education 2015 Parent Handbook" under "Department of Education and Early Development". Additionally, if a parent indicates a specific need or interest in IDEA for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

- j) Other State/Federally Funded Child Care Programs (example-State Pre-K)

 Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and includes linkages to the Alaska

 Department of Education and Early Development's programs such as:
 - Child Nutrition;
 - Public School Choice, Standards;
 - Early Learning (Includes Head Start and Pre-Elementary); Educational Technology;
 - English Learners, Homeless Education;
 - Improving Basic Programs;
 - Migrant Education Program;
 - Neglected and Delinquent; and
 - Safe Supportive & Successful Schools; Special Education; and Suicide Awareness.

Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in other state or federally funded child care programs for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's

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website links.

k) Other early childhood programs (e.g., Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program)

Through a link on the Child Care Program Office website. This link is located under "Child Care Resources and Links" from the home page and includes linkages to Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program and the Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Learning Program. The CCPO also administers the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) which is focused on increasing the quality and availability of inclusive child care programs for children with special needs. Information for this program is available on the Child Care Program Office website home page under "Information for Parents, Special Needs Child Care". Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, has information about Alaska IN! posted on their website, and information is shared at the time of interview or if a family appears to have a child with special needs.

Also, if a provider indicates a specific need or interest in other state or federally funded child care programs for themselves or to share with families, front line staff will make a referral by providing contact information and where to locate more information through the CCPO's website links.

- 2.2.6 Describe how the State/Territory makes available information to parents of eligible children, the general public, and where applicable, providers (see also section 6) about research and best practices in child development, including all domains of early childhood development, including social and emotional development, cognitive, and physical health and development (particularly healthy eating and physical activity), and meaningful parent and family engagement. (658E(c)(2)(E)(VI))
 - a) Describe how the State/Territory makes information about research and best practices in child development available to 1) parents of eligible children, 2) providers and 3) the general public

Parents: of eligible children

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website includes the following links from the

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homepage under **Child Care Resources and Links**: Alaska Early Learning Guidelines; the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development; Zero to Three, National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families; the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program (the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages are to the OCS website). The CCPO website also includes from the homepage, links to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and to the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program. Both these programs provide information regarding nutrition.

Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, provides linkages to Strengthening Families, the signs of developmental disabilities, and Let's Move which promotes healthy eating and physical activity on their website at: www.threadalaska.org. thread offers parents and families information about child development and best practices through child care referral services and a "warm" line service. Parents can access information via thread's website for free child care referrals and parenting resources. During business hours, families can access phone or office walk in support to speak with a Family Services Specialist. In addition to on-line information, resources on best practices in child development, social and emotional development, cognitive, and physical health and development is available at thread offices in three statewide locations. thread also makes available Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines and parent activity guides for families which provide hands on activities in all domains of early childhood.

Providers:

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website includes the following links from the homepage under Child Care Resources and Links: Alaska Early Learning Guidelines; the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development; Zero to Three, National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families; the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program (the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages to the OCS website). The CCPO website also includes from the homepage, links to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and to the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program. Both of these programs provide information regarding nutrition.

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Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, provides linkages to Strengthening Families, the signs of developmental disabilities, and Let's Move which promotes healthy eating and physical activity on their website at: www.threadalaska.org. thread provides training and technical assistance to early educators and the early care and learning programs where they work to assist them in both building knowledge and skills related to best practices for care and educating young children. thread utilizes the Alaska Early Learning guidelines as the foundation of best practices for child development and early learning domains and also the TACSEI resources and materials are used to support the best practices in developing social and emotional development in young children. The "I am Moving, I am Learning" curriculum and materials are used to support best practices in physical and healthy nutrition in programs. Meaningful family engagement is supported using the Strengthening Families Framework. Additional early childhood development including physical and cognitive development are guided by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Caring for our Children, and the Creative Curriculum. All of the above mentioned curriculum and materials are provided to early educators and provider programs through workshop trainings, training series, and intensive quality technical assistance and support for child care providers.

General Public:

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website includes the following links from the homepage under Child Care Resources and Links: Alaska Early Learning Guidelines; the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development; Zero to Three, National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families; the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program (the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages to the OCS website). The CCPO website also includes from the homepage, links to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and to the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program. Both of these programs provide information regarding nutrition. Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, also provides linkages to Strengthening Families, the signs of developmental disabilities, and Let's Move which promotes healthy eating and physical activity at: www.threadalaska.org. thread offers a "warm" line service available during open business hours as well as on-line website resources for any community member seeking information about parenting information, providing high quality early care and learning, and positive child

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development. Resources and information are available on a wide variety of topics including child developmental milestones, positive parenting, activities for engaging young children, best practices in early care and learning, etc.

b) Describe what you provide and how (i.e., methods such as written materials, direct communication, etc.)

Information on these resources is disseminated in a number of ways. Child Care Licensing Specialists provide resources information directly to licensed child care providers at the time of licensure, inspections, and through in-person Child Care Licensing Chats and emailed informational Broadcasts throughout the year.

Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, makes information available on their website at www.threadalaska.org; in the office lending library; by connecting with an Early Childhood Specialist in-person; and by calling thread during business hours for emailed or mailed resources and information.

c) Describe who you partner with to make information about research and best practices in child development available

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, thread; Early intervention/Infant Learning Program; All Alaska Pediatric Partnership; Alaska Children's Trust; Best Beginnings; Early Head Start and Head Start; School Districts; and the State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services, Department of Education and Early Development, and the State Maternal Child Health.

- 2.2.7 Describe how information on the State/Territory's policies regarding the social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on expulsion of preschool-aged children (from birth to five for purposes of this requirement), in early childhood programs receiving CCDF is collected and disseminated to parents, providers and the general public. (658E(c)(2)(E)(i)(VII))
 - a) Describe how the State/Territory makes information regarding social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention support models, available to 1) parents of eligible children, 2) providers and 3)

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the general public. At minimum, describe **what** you provide (e.g., early childhood mental health consultation services to child care programs) and **how** (i.e., methods such as written materials, direct communication, etc.) for each group:

i. Parents

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website includes links to Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program. The State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children Service's (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages to the OCS website. Additionally, the website includes information about the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!) for families participating in the Child Care Assistance Program who have children with special needs.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, also provides linkages to Strengthening Families, and the signs of developmental disabilities on their website at www.threadalaska.org. Parents are supported by thread with information and resources supporting the understanding and child development related to social-emotional/positive behavioral support. Resources related to positive parenting, child development, developmental milestones/expectations are available. Additionally, resources and information on Infant Learning and other early intervention supports are available. thread offers support to parents by offering the Ages and Stages questionnaire for free developmental screenings and providing families with feedback on their child's development. Parents may also request an Individual Child Consultation through thread to support the observation of their child for specific resources and referrals as necessary.

ii. Providers

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website includes links to Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program. The State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children Service's (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages to the OCS website.

Through Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, child care providers have access to intensive early childhood mental health consultation through a partnership between thread and community mental health providers supported by OCS. This intensive support includes training for staff on early

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childhood mental health and offers intensive support to the participating program including classroom modeling, technical assistance, and program improvement plan. Participating programs track the number of expulsions in their program. thread also offers workshop training for child care providers on "what's beneath the behavior" offering support and guidance on supporting early childhood mental health in the classroom. Also, child care providers have access to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire from thread's website at www.threadalaska.org to support them and their families in understanding child development and identifying any supportive resources and referrals as necessary.

iii. General public

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website links to Strengthening Families Through Early Care & Education and the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program. The State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children's Services (OCS) administers these programs and both are linkages to the OCS website.

Additionally, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, offers a "warm line" service available during open business hours as well as online website resources for any community member seeking information about early childhood mental health, providing high quality early care and learning, and positive child development. Resources and information are available on social emotional development, child developmental milestones, positive parenting, activities for engaging young children, best practices in early care and learning, etc. The general public also has access to any of the information and resources listed on thread's website at www.threadalaska.org.

b) Describe any partners used to make information regarding social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children available

The State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services, Office of Children Service's and Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread; Anchorage Community Mental Health; Anchorage School District; and Juneau Youth Services.

c) Does the State have a written policy regarding preventing expulsion of:

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Preschool children (from birth to five) in early childhood programs receiving child care assistance?
□Yes.
If yes, If yes, describe how the State/Territory makes information about that policy
available to parents, providers and the general public (what you provide, how you
provide and any partners used) and provide a link
☑ _{No.}
School-age children from programs receiving child care assistance? Yes.
If yes, describe how the State/Territory makes information about that policy available
to 1) parents, 2) providers and 3) the general public (what you provide, how you
provide and any partners used) and provide a link
☑ _{No.}

2.2.8 Coordination with Other Partners to Increase Access to Developmental Screenings

The State/Territory must develop and describe procedures for providing information on and referring families to existing developmental screening services. (658E(c)(2)E(ii)) At a minimum, the State/Territory must establish procedures to provide information to families and child care providers on: (1) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment program under the Medicaid program carried out under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and developmental screening services available under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.); and (2) a description of how a family or child care provider receiving CCDF may utilize the resources and services to obtain developmental screenings for children receiving CCDF who may be at risk for cognitive or other developmental delays, which may include social, emotional, physical, or linguistic delays.

Describe the status of the State/Territory's procedures for providing information on and
referring families to existing developmental screening services.

Fully implemented and meeting	ı all Fadaral raquiraments	outlined above - k	w March 1
i dily implemented and meeting	i ali i Gudiai igguligiligilig		Jy iviai Gii i,

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2016.

List the Lead Agency policy citation(s) and:

- a) Describe procedures, including timelines for when infants, toddlers and preschoolers should be screened
- b) Describe how CCDF families or child care providers receiving CCDF may utilize the resources and services to obtain developmental screenings for CCDF children at risk for cognitive or other developmental delays

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 09/30/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

To answer, List the Lead Agency policy citation(s):

The Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (ILP) is the Lead Agency in Alaska for Developmental Screenings for ages birth to three. The ILP's procedures for providing information on Developmental Screenings, per the Early and Period Screening Diagnosis, and Treatment program under Medicaid, and referring providers and families, as well as reports and outcomes, are listed on their website: http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Pages/infantlearning/referral/default.aspx.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is the Lead Agency for developmental screening of pre-school ages and school aged children.

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https://education.alaska.gov/tls/sped/.

The ILP falls under Part C IDEA and has implemented a manual titled the Alaska Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program Policies, Procedures, Methods, and Descriptions to Implement Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

This manual is also found on the ILP's website.

Additionally, the Child Care Program office website also contains links to the ILP and the Developmental Screening information, under Child Care Resources and Links at http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/resources.aspx, under the Information for Families link after the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program link at http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/parents.aspx, and under the Information for Child Care Providers link at http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/providers.aspx.

To answer a) above, which is partially implemented, Describe procedures, including timelines for when infants, toddlers, and preschoolers should be screened:

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, will be making systemic changes to include providing the required information regarding developmental screenings to families and providers by September 30, 2016. Thus far, the below has been implemented.

For children age birth to three years are eligible and should be referred for screening and early intervention services under Part C of IDEA:

If any one or more of the below criteria exists or there are concerns they may exist. The procedures for screening (referral process) includes providing the child's name, date of birth, age, parent or caregiver's name, telephone number, mailing address, the person making the referral and their contact telephone number, and the reason or concerns regarding the child. Screening includes utilizing both the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ), 3rd edition, which looks at a child's movement, language, and problem solving skills; and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Social Emotional (ASQ:SE), which looks at how a child is developing relationships, experiences emotions, and calms when upset. The ASQs are recommended to be used for the following ages: two months, four months, six months, eight months, nine months, 10

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months, 12 months, 14 months, 16 months, 18 months, 20 months, 22 months, 24 months, 27 months, 30 months, 33 months, 36 months, 42 months, 48 months, 54 months, and 60 months.

Criteria:

1. Developmental Delay:

A child experiencing a 50% delay or equivalent standard deviations below the norm in one or more of following areas of childhood development: cognitive; physical (including vision and hearing, fine and gross motor skills); communication development (language, speech and communication); social and emotional development; and adaptive development, consistent with 34 CFR §303.21(a)(1). A child's developmental delay must be:

- Measured and verified by appropriate approved diagnostic instruments and procedures, or
- Documented through informed clinical opinion of the multidisciplinary team if the child is unable to be appropriately and accurately tested by the standardized measures available using:
 - Systematic and documented observation of functional abilities in the family's daily routine by the multidisciplinary team and parent;
 - Developmental history; and
 - Other appropriate assessment procedures (i.e., parent report, criteria-referenced assessment, developmental checklist).

2. Physical or Mental Condition:

An infant or toddler may be eligible for Part C when she/he has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay including, but not limited to, the conditions listed in 34 CFR §303.21(a)(2)(ii) and the following conditions:

- Chromosomal abnormalities associated with mental retardation, such as Down Syndrome;
- Congenital or genetic central nervous system disorders, birth defects or syndromes, such as myelomeningocele, fetal alcohol syndrome, or Cornelia de Lange syndrome;
- Deaf, blind or deaf-blind;
- Established central nervous system deficits resulting from hypoxia, trauma, or infection;
- Cerebral palsy;
- Health impairments, such as autism, epilepsy, neurological impairment or other chronic, acute or degenerative health problems;
- Orthopedically impaired, which means impairments of the normal function of muscles, joints or bones due to congenital anomaly, disease or permanent injury; or

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- Microcephaly.

3. If a child exhibits a medical condition not approved by DHSS EI/ILP as being an eligible condition, the qualified multidisciplinary team may use written verification from a qualified physician, pediatrician, or pediatric sub-specialist, that the child's medical condition typically results in a substantial development delay within the varying ranges of developmental disabilities.

For developmental screening services available under section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act:

Under the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, all school districts must operate **screening programs** for all children ages three through 21 under Alaska regulation Education and Early Development 4 AAC 52.100(2). Screenings must "...include health, vision, hearing, general development and basic skills, primary language and culture, and daily skills in home and community obtained through parental input." Screening programs must include **all** students covered by child find requirements under Education and Early Development 4 AAC 52.090; screenings are not evaluations for eligibility for special education (34 CFR § 300.302), but screening information may be used to make referrals.

Reevaluations

Alaska regulation Education and Early Development 4 AAC 52.180 and the IDEA 34 CFR 300.303 requires that districts reevaluate each child with a disability to determine whether the child remains eligible for special education and related services and to determine the educational needs of the child. Federal regulation 34 CFR § 300.303 requires districts to reevaluate all students with disabilities under a variety of scenarios (**bold** added for emphasis):

- "(1) If the public agency determines that the **educational or related services needs**, including improved academic achievement and functional performance, of the child warrant a reevaluation; or
- (2) If the child's **parent or teacher requests** a reevaluation.
- (b) Limitation. A reevaluation conducted under paragraph (a) of this section--
- (1) May occur **not more than once a year**, unless the parent and the public agency agree otherwise; and
- (2) Must occur at least once every 3 years, unless the parent and the public agency

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agree that a reevaluation is unnecessary."

To answer b), Describe how CCDF families or child care providers receiving CCDF may utilize the resources and services to obtain developmental screenings for CCDF children at risk for cognitive or other developmental delays:

Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (ILP) contracts to 16 regions that child care providers and families may locally access to obtain a Developmental Screening for children birth to three years of age.

These 16 regions are: Alaska Center for Children & Adults, Inc. - Fairbanks; Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, ILP - Dillingham; Center for Community, Early Learning Program - Sitka; Community Connections, Early Learning Program - Ketchikan; Family Outreach Center for Understanding Special Needs, Inc. - Eagle River; Frontier Community Services, Early Intervention Program - Soldotna; Sprout Family Services - Homer; Kodiak Area Native Association Infant Learning Program - Kodiak; Mat-Su Services for Children & Adults - Wasilla; Northwest Arctic Borough School District - Kotzebue; Norton Sound Health Corporation, Infant Learning Program - Nome; Programs for Infants & Children, Inc, Infant Learning Program - Anchorage; REACH, Inc., Infant Learning Program - Juneau; SeaView Community Services, Infant Learning Program - Seward; Tanana Chiefs Conference, Infant Learning Program - Fairbanks; Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, and the Family Infant Toddler Program - Bethel.

The ILP website provides information regarding Developmental Screenings, procedures for referrals, contact information, reports and outcomes, policies and procedures on their website:

http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Pages/infantlearning/referral/default.aspx.

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website also includes a link from the homepage under Child Care Resources and Links to the ILP, thread, and the Programs For Infants & Children, Inc. (PIC) websites which also contain helpful information regarding Developmental Screening. The CCPO also sends at least an annual email Broadcast to all providers regarding the ILP, resources, and services to

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obtain developmental screenings so they may help inform families and to help identify children in their care who may benefit. This was distributed May 3, 2016. All CCDF subsidized families are referred to thread for consumer education, including informing parents of the ILP and developmental screenings through their assessment of the family's needs during the referral process. This includes further referring families who are responsible for 619 and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides resources and services to all children who are pre-school aged and school aged and all families including those receiving CCDF services.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Establish procedures to provide information to families and providers (1) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment program under the Medicaid program carried out under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and developmental screening services available under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Ensure Child Care Assistance Program designees provide parents and providers the required information regarding developmental screenings in Alaska.

- Ensure Child Care Assistance Program designees are trained on how to refer parents and providers needing or interested in developmental screenings, including referrals, including referrals to Part C and 619, infant, toddler, preschool, and school age.
- Include the required information in parent interviews and whenever referring a family for the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program.
- Include the required information in providers Orientations and whenever a provider.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The

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Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Ensure thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, provides parents and providers the required information regarding developmental screenings in Alaska.

- Coordinate with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network to include providing the required information regarding developmental screenings to parents when providing referrals, enhanced referrals, consumer education information, and when assessments for the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program.
- Coordinate with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network to include providing the required information regarding developmental screenings to parents when providing referrals, enhanced referrals, professional development information, and when assessments for the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program.
- Ensure thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, has all of the required information regarding developmental screenings, including referrals to Part C and 619, infant, toddler, preschool, and school age on their website.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Ensure Child Care Licensing Specialists statewide provide the required information regarding developmental screenings to licensed providers.

- Coordinate with Child Care Program Office (CCPO) Child Care Licensing to include providing the required information regarding developmental screenings to provider licensed by the CCPO.
- Coordinate with Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Child Care Licensing to include providing the required information regarding developmental screenings to licensed providers within the MOA.
- Ensure the MOA Child Care Licensing has all of the required information regarding developmental screenings, including referrals to Part C and 619, infant, toddler, preschool, and school age on their website.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

- First email broadcast was sent to providers and staff on May 3, 2016
- Future email broadcasts will include early care and learning partners and Child Care Assistance Program designees.
- Update Child Care Program Office website with information regarding developmental screenings under: Information for Parents; Information for Provider; Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program; and Child Care Resources and Links. This was updated in May 2016 and will include all the required information, including

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referrals to Part C and 619, infant, toddler, preschool, and school age by September 30, 2016.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/03/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; and early care and learning partners.

2.2.9 Describe how the State/Territory meets the requirement to maintain a record of substantiated parental complaints. (658E(c)(2)(C))

- a) How does the State/Territory define substantiated parental complaint
 Substantiated parent complaints are defined as reports of concerns or allegations made by
 parents and investigated by Licensing with violations of state statutes/regulations found to be
 valid.
- b) How does the State/Territory maintain a record of substantiated parental complaints about providers (e.g., how long are records maintained and in what format)

All complaint records, including substantiated parental complaints, are kept along with the facility's licensing records as long as the facility remains open. Once a facility closes, the complaint records accompany the closed licensing file, in accordance to our record retention schedule for the year of closure and are then kept in archive storage for six years.

Additionally, information regarding substantiated complaints is kept indefinitely as electronic records in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and within our Complaint Tracking Spreadsheet.

c) How does the State/Territory make substantiated parental complaints available to the public on request

The Child Care Program Office makes all Reports of Investigation available to the public by providing a hard copy of the report upon request to anyone.

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d) Describe how the State/Territory defines and maintains complaints from others about providers

All complaints regardless of where the complaint originated is handled through the same process.

2.2.10 How will the Lead Agency or partners provide outreach and services to eligible families for whom English is not their first language?

Application in other languages (application document, brochures, provider notices)
☐Informational materials in non-English languages

Check the strategies, if any, that your State/Territory has chosen to implement.

Training and	technical	assistance	in nor	n-English	language	es

Website in non-English languages

12.0		nov accont	s applications	at local c	ommunity_ha	ead lacations
	Leau Aue	TILLY ALLEDIN	s applications	al IUUai U	OHIIIIUHII(Y-DO	เจษน เบบสแบบจ
		, ,	1 1		,	

Bilingual caseworkers or translators available

Bilingual outreach workers

FI		_	
Partnerships	with communit	y-based organ	iizations

Other

None

2.2.11 If the Lead Agency checked any option above related to providing information or services in other non-English languages, please list the primary languages offered (top 3) or specify that the State/Territory has the ability to have translation/interpretation in all primary and secondary languages

The State/Territory has the ability to have translation/interpretation in all primary and secondary languages.

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2.2.12 Describe how the Lead Agency or partners provide outreach and services to eligible persons with disabilities

All Child Care Assistance Offices are ADA compliant to allow applicants and eligible persons with disabilities full access to services

2.3 Website for Consumer Education

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that States and Territories have a website describing processes for licensing and monitoring child care providers, processes for conducting criminal background checks, and offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers, and aggregate information on the number of deaths, serious injuries and child abuse.

The State/Territory must make public certain information about the results of such monitoring on a website in a way that is consumer-friendly and in an easily accessible format. (658E(c)(2)(D)) In order for a website to be a useful tool for parents, it should be easy to navigate, with a minimum number of clicks, and in plain language. States and Territories must post the results of the monitoring on the website no later than November 19, 2017. All other components of the website must be completed no later than September 30, 2016.

2.3.1 Describe the status of State/Territory's consumer education website.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal	requirements outlined abo	ve - by March 1
2016.		

Provide the link to the website:

and describe how the consumer education website meets the requirements to:

- a) Share provider-specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider (including the last date of inspection, and any history of violations). Describe
- b) Include a description of health and safety requirements and licensing or regulatory requirements for child care providers. Describe

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- c) Include a description of the processes for licensing, background checks, monitoring, and offenses that prevent individuals from being providers. Describe
- d) Provide information about the number of deaths, number of serious injuries as defined by the State/Territory and the number of incidences of substantiated child abuse in child care settings. Describe
- e) Describe how the website is consumer-friendly, for example, allowing multiple ways to search for providers, defining terms such as exempt care and corrective action plans, presents the results of monitoring inspections in plain language, providing frequently asked questions, is accessible in multiple languages upon request and to persons with disabilities through multiple formats, differentiating between violations based on risk to children, and easy to locate and navigate. Describe

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date. Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016 for all components of the website except posting the results of the monitoring on the website which is November 19, 2017) 11/19/2017

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, currently meets the following requirements:

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A description of health and safety requirements and licensing or regulatory requirements for child care providers is found on the Child Care Program Office website through a link on the home page called Statutes and Regulations. This link includes the 7 AAC 57 Child Care Facilities Licensing, 7 AAC 41 Child Care Assistance, and 7 AAC 10 Licensing, Certification, and Approvals regulations which describe the health and safety regulations pertaining to licensing or regulatory requirements for child care providers.

A description of the processes for licensing, background checks, monitoring, and offenses that prevent individuals from being providers is found on the Child Care Program Office website through a link on the home page to Background Check Program Information and How to Apply for a Background Check through the Alaska Background Check Program: Basic Instruction for ALL Application Submissions. Also, from the homepage, under a link called Statutes and Regulations leads to the Barrier Crime Matrix which lists the offenses that would prevent an individual from becoming or continuing to be a provider.

The CCPO's website includes a friendly on-line search tool (State of Alaska: Find a Child Care Provider) for child care providers by the provider type (and by relative care) or the provider's last name. This includes the options to search by city and zip code by the provider's mailing or physical address. The CCPO website also includes a link under Information for Parents: Child Care Assistance Program which describes the type of eligible providers through the Child Care Assistance Program. The CCPO has ensured the most frequently visited link and webpages based on questions received, are accessible on the website's homepage.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Share provider-specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider (including the last date of inspection, and any history of violations).

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Publications Office to develop a mechanism for reporting provider-specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider (including the last date of inspection, and any history of violations), on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) web site.

- 4/2016 Convene Task Order and requirements meetings for IT Governance to secure needed resources (staff and funding).
 These monthly meetings will occur until resources are secured.
- 6/2016 Determine scope of programming needed (research needed).

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Publications; and DHSS Data Processing Manager.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Conduct research to determine how the required information will be displayed and accessed on the CCPO website (technical assistance may be required).

- 6/2016 Convene a series of workgroup meetings including the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to align reporting of the requirements. These meetings will occur until reporting is aligned.
- 12/2016 Determine how the required information will be displayed and accessed on the CCPO website. This includes convening a series of workgroup meetings until completion of this task.

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Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 06/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with DHSS Web Master, Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations, and associated contractor completing enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) to ensure the required information can connect and display to the CCPO website.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 10/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

DHSS Web Master; Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations; and associated contractor.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2017

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Posting and maintenance of monitoring details to the CCPO website will be implemented by November 19, 2017.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/19/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

State of Alaska Public Information Team; IT; and associated contractors.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Provide annual aggregate information about the number of deaths, number of serious injuries as defined by the State/Territory and the number of incidences of substantiated child abuse in child care settings. Describe

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Publications Office to develop a mechanism for reporting provider-specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider, on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) web site.

 4/2016 - Convene Task Order and requirements meetings for IT Governance to secure needed resources (staff and funding).

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These monthly meetings will occur until resources are secured.

 - 6/2016 - Determine scope of programming needed (research needed).

Projected start date for each activity: 04/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) Publications; and DHSS Data Processing Manager.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Explore automated mechanism or how best to collect aggregate data for each requirements

- 8/2016 Coordinate with other state agencies such as: the Office of Children's Services for substantiated child abuse in child care settings: the Municipality of Anchorage for reporting serious injuries; and the Division of Public Health for reporting deaths in a child care setting.
- 10/2016 Convene workgroup meetings until task completion.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 06/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Office of Children's Services; and Division of Public Health.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Conduct research to determine how the required information will be displayed and accessed on the CCPO website (technical assistance may be required).

- 10/2016 Convene a series of workgroup meetings including the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to align reporting of the requirements. These meetings will occur until reporting is aligned.
- 12/2016 Determine how the required information will be displayed and accessed on the CCPO website. This includes convening a series of workgroup meetings until completion of this task.

Projected start date for each activity: 10/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage., Child Care Licesning Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with DHSS Web Master, Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations, and associated contractor completing enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) to ensure the required information can connect and display to the CCPO website.

- 12/2016 Convene design and programming workgroup sessions until task completion.
- 12/2016 Explore possibility of using a SharePoint site.
- 8/2017 System testing prior to posting to the CCPO website.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 10/01/2017

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

DHSS Web Master; Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations; and associated contractor.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Posting and maintenance of monitoring details to the CCPO website will be implemented by November 19, 2017.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/19/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

State of Alaska Public Information Team; IT; and associated contractors.

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Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. The website is consumer-friendly, for example, allowing multiple ways to search for providers, defining terms such as exempt care and corrective action plans, presents the results of monitoring inspections in plain language, providing frequently asked questions, is accessible in multiple languages upon request and to persons with disabilities through multiple formats, differentiating between violations based on risk to children, and easy to locate and navigate.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Publications Office to develop a mechanism for defining terms and posting the results of monitoring inspections in plain language on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) web site.

- 4/2016 Convene Task Order and requirements meetings for IT Governance to secure needed resources (staff and funding).
 These monthly meetings will occur until resources are secured.
- 6/2016 Determine scope of programming needed (research needed).

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Publications; and DHSS Data Processing Manager.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Conduct research to determine how the required information will be displayed and

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accessed on the CCPO website (technical assistance may be required).

- 6/2016 Convene a series of workgroup meetings including the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to align reporting of the requirements. These meetings will occur until reporting is aligned.
- 12/2016 Determine how the required information will be displayed and accessed on the CCPO website. This includes convening a series of workgroup meetings until completion of this task.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 06/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Coordinate with DHSS Web Master, Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations, and associated contractor completing enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) to ensure the required information can connect and display to the CCPO website.

- 12/2016 Convene design and programming workgroup sessions until task completion.
- 12/2016 Explore possibility of using a SharePoint site.
- 8/2017 System testing prior to posting to the CCPO website.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 10/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

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DHSS Web Master; Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations; and associated contractor.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, child care providers, families, and the public accessing information.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2017
Projected end date for each activity: 11/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The

Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Posting and maintenance of monitoring details to the CCPO website will be implemented by November 19, 2017.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/19/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implementation of this activity

State of Alaska Public Information Team; IT; and associated contractor.

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3 Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families

The expanded purposes of CCDBG highlight the opportunities States and Territories have to "deliver high-quality, coordinated early childhood care and education services to maximize parents" options and support parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance"; and "to improve child care and development of participating children." (658A(b)) Young children learn in the context of their relationships with adults, including their child care teacher or provider. The unintentional consequence of child care assistance that is linked to adult work and school obligation is that child care arrangements - and the opportunity for children to form trusting relationships with teachers - are often interrupted and unstable. Child care financial assistance policies that make it easier to get and keep assistance support continuity of care and relationships between the child and child care provider and enable parents to stay employed or complete training/education. Child care support that extends until families are able to pay the full cost of care themselves promotes longer lasting economic stability for families. CCDF funds may support families until they reach 85% of State Median Income (SMI).

The CCDBG Act of 2014 included requirements to establish minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination periods, requiring that States and Territories have a process to account for irregular fluctuations in earnings, a policy ensuring that families' work schedules are not disrupted by program requirements, policies to provide for job search of not less than three (3) months, and to describe policies for graduated phase- out of assistance. The definition of an eligible child includes that a family's assets may not exceed \$1,000,000 (as certified by a member of such family). Procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation are also now required. There is nothing in statute to prohibit States from establishing policies that extend eligibility beyond 12 months or establish other similar policies to align program requirements that allow children enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, state or local pre-kindergarten and other collaborative programs to finish the program year and to promote continuity for families receiving services through multiple benefits programs.

3.1 Eligible Children and Families

In order to be eligible for services, children must (1) be under the age of 13, (2) reside with a family whose income does not exceed 85 percent of the State's median income for a family of the same size, and whose family assets do not exceed \$1,000,000 (as certified by a member of such family); and who (3)(a) resides with a parent or parents who are working or attending a job training or educational program; or (b) is receiving, or needs to receive, protective services and resides with a parent or parents not described in (3a.). (658P(4))

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3.1.1 Eligibility Criteria Based upon Child's Age

- a) The CCDF program serves childrenfrom 0 (weeks/months/years) to 13 years (through age 12).
- b) Does the Lead Agency allow CCDF-funded child care for children age 13 and above but below age 19 years who are physically and/or mentally incapable of self-care?(658E(c)(3)(B), 658P(3))

Yes, and the upper age is through 18 years (may not equal or exceed age 19). Provide the Lead Agency definition of physical or mental incapacity: Per Alaska Statute (AS) 47.25.095 developmental disability means a disability under which a person is incapable of self-care, as verified by a physician or licensed or certified psychologist who has examined the person. Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.990(b) further clarifies disability means a condition attributable to one or more mental or physical impairments that are severe, chronic, and likely to continue indefinitely. For child care assistance purposes, the mental or physical impairment (incapacity) must be documented by a professional (doctor, psychiatrist, nurse practitioner, public health nurse, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed psychological associate).

c) Does the Lead Agency allow CCDF-funded child care for children age 13 and above but below age 19 years who are under court supervision? (658P(3), 658E(c)(3)(B))

Yes and the upper age is	to 18 years	(may not equal o	r exceed age 19
□No.			

3.1.2 How does the Lead Agency define the following eligibility terms?

a) residing with -

Living with - including taking meals and sleeping in the same residence at least 50 percent of the time for child care is requested.

b) in loco parentis -

in loco parentis - A person who acts in place of a parent, such as a guardian, relative, or friend, who provides care and supervision like a parent but without the formalities of legal guardianship or adoption.

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3.1.3 Eligibility Criteria Based on Reason for Care

a) How does the Lead Agency define "working, attending job training and education" for the purposes of eligibility at the point of determination? Provide a brief description below, including allowable activities and if a minimum number of hours is required by State/Territory (not a federal requirement).

* working:

Currently, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, for purposes of eligibility, defines "work" in Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.312 as (1) an activity for which a wage or salary is paid, or (2) being engaged in a business:

- A. operated with the intention of making a profit;
- B. for which a business license under Alaska Statute (AS) 43.70 has been obtained; and
- C. that generates revenue during any consecutive three-month period.

Or up to eighty hours of seek work (job search) activities which include contacting prospective employers, completing and submitting job applications, and attending job interviews with the goal of obtaining employment. Seek work activities are allowable in full hour increments.

For parents who are participating in the TANF program, "work activities" include paid employment (may be subsidized), work search and job readiness activities, community work experience, job sampling, and approved subsistence activities.

* attending job training

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, defines a "training program" (attending job training) for the purposes of eligibility as: a training program is a structured environment for participants who have specific learning objectives, identified skills to be mastered with a beginning and ending date.

* attending education

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, currently defines "an educational program" (attending education) for the purposes of eligibility as: a structured learning

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environment in which an instructor or teacher leads students through a course of study that includes specific learning objectives, goals, and standards, and leads to a certificate of mastery or completion, a state license, a diploma, or a degree.

b) Does the Lead Agency allow parents to qualify for CCDF assistance on the basis of
education and training participation alone (without additional minimum work requirements)?
✓ Yes.
□No.
If no, describe additional requirements

- c) Does the Lead Agency provide child care to children in protective services?
 - Yes. If yes, how does the Lead Agency define "protective services" for the purposes of eligibility? Provide a brief description below.
 - 1) Definition of protective services -

Child protective services child care is provided to children who have been the subject of a report of harm. The purpose is to identify, treat and reduce child abuse and neglect, as well as to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to protect and maintain children in their own homes. A social worker may authorize child care for a child in protective services at risk of abuse or neglect and for whom child care during the day is part of a family treatment plan. The objective is to enable the child to remain with his or her own family or to return the child to the child's own family following out-of-home placement.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, also elects to provide CCDF-funded child care to children in foster care. If a foster parent is seeking child care only for the foster child, the eligibility requirements of the Office of Children's Services apply. Parents who are seeking child care for their own children and for foster children in their household must be working, seeking work, attending school, or in job training.

2) Does the Lead Agency waive the co-payment and income eligibility requirements

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by-c	cases in which children receive, or need to receive, protective services on a casecase basis? (658E(c)(5)) Yes. No.
foste edu	te - If the Lead Agency elects to provide CCDF-funded child care to children in er care whose foster care parents are <u>not</u> working, or who are <u>not</u> in cation/training activities for CCDF purposes these children are considered to be in <u>ective services</u> and should be included in the protective services definition above.
3.1.4 Eligibili	ity Criteria Based on Family Income
determinat	es the Lead Agency define "income" for the purposes of eligibility at the point of ion?
The pa	rents' total monthly cash receipts before taxes from all sources, plus all the sunearned income.

b) Provide the CCDF income eligibility limits in the table below. **Complete** columns (a) and (b) based upon maximum eligibility initial entry into the CCDF program. Complete Columns (c) and (d) **ONLY IF** the Lead Agency is using income eligibility limits lower than 85% of the current SMI. Complete columns (e) and (f) with the maximum "exit" eligibility level if applicable and below the federal limit of 85% of current SMI.

Note - If the income eligibility limits are not statewide, check here Describe how many jurisdictions set their own income eligibility limits

Fill in the chart based on the most populous area of the state.

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Family Size	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
	100% of State Median Income (SMI) (\$/month)	85% of State Median Income (SMI) (\$/month) [Multiply (a) by 0.85]	(IF APPLICABL E) \$/month Maximum "Entry" Income Level if Iower than 85% Current SMI	(IF APPLICABL E) % of SMI [Divide (c) by (a), multiply by 100] Income Level if Iower than 85% Current SMI	(IF APPLICABL E) \$/month Maximum "Exit" Income Level if Iower than 85% Current SMI	(IF APPLICABL E) % of SMI [Divide (e) by (a), multiply by 100] Income Level if Iower than 85% Current SMI
1	4754	4041	n/a	n/a	No tier	No tier
2	6328	5379	4250	67	No tier	No tier
3	6574	5588	4524	69	No tier	No tier
4	8795	7476	4614	52	No tier	No tier
5	9470	8050	5045	53	No tier	No tier

Reminder - Income limits must be provided in terms of current State Median Income (SMI) (or Territory Median Income) even if federal poverty level is used in implementing the program. Federal <u>poverty guidelines</u> are available at http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.cfm.

- c) SMI Source and year http://www.justice.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/20151101/bci_data/median_income_table.htm Year: 2015
- d) These eligibility limits in column (c) became or will become effective on: November 1, 2010
- e) Provide the link to the income eligibility limits http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/dpa/programs/ccare/files/CCAPFamilyIncomeContrib utionsSchedule.pdf

3.1.5 Graduated Phase-Out of Assistance

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that requires States and Territories to provide for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of redetermination, but remains below the federal threshold of 85% of State median income. Providing a graduated phase-out supports long-term family economic stability by allowing for wage growth and a tapered transition out of the child care subsidy program. (658E (c)(2)(N)(iv)) This might be achieved through policies such as establishing a second income eligibility threshold at redetermination (e.g., establishing a different eligibility threshold for families first

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applying for assistance and those already receiving assistance, sometimes called and "exit threshold") or by granting a sustained period of continued assistance to the family before termination.

Describe the status of the State/Territory's policy regarding graduated phase-out of assistance.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016.

List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe the policies and procedures for graduated phase-out

Not implemented. The State must provide a State-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste tables here. Your responses here will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 12/31/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's status toward complete implementation for any requirement(s) not fully implemented (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Revisions to regulations, policies, and procedures are required to meet this requirement. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has drafted the necessary revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this provision. These regulation revisions are in the public comment process from April 21, 2016 - June 13, 2016. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented A graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of redetermination, but remains below the federal threshold of 85% of State median income.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include requiring a graduated phase-out for families whose income has increased at the time of re-determination, but remains below the federal threshold of 85% of the State Median Income.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include a graduated phase out for families.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team,
 and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality
 Assessment team.

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Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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3.1.6 Fluctuation in Earnings

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that the Plan shall demonstrate how the State/Territory's (or designated local entity) processes for initial determination and redetermination take into account irregular fluctuations in earnings. (658E(c)(2)(N)(i)(II))

Note - this change requires that States and Territories have policies to account for the fact that some parents with seasonal or other types of work schedules may have irregular earnings over the course of a year, including changes that temporarily exceed 85% of SMI. States and Territories should have procedures to guide how eligibility and copayments are set in a manner to take such circumstances into account. For example, averaging family income over a period of time to broaden the scope of income verification to be more reflective of annual income rather than tied to a limited time frame that may have seasonal irregularities.

Describe the status of the State/Territory's policy related to the fluctuation in earnings requirement.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016.

List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe the circumstances that cover irregular fluctuations of earnings pursuant to this requirement

Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual section 310, Averaging Seasonal, Commission or other Irregular Income states:

Seasonal, commission, or irregular income is to be averaged over the period of time engaged in the eligible work activity, or when the income is earned, not to exceed 12 months. The two most recent payments received an employer statement or the last year's tax documents can be used to obtain a monthly average income.

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide

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brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's status toward complete implementation for any requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

3.1.7 Describe how the Lead Agency documents, verifies and maintains applicant information.

Check the information that the Lead Agency documents. There are no federal requirements for specific documentation or verification procedures.

Reminder - Lead Agencies are reminded that, for purposes of implementing the citizenship verification requirements mandated by title IV of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, only the citizenship and immigration status of the child, who is the primary beneficiary of the child care benefit, is relevant for eligibility purposes (ACYF-PI-CC-98-08). States may not deny child care benefits to an eligible child because the parent(s), legal guardians, persons standing in loco parentis, or other household members have not provided

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information regarding their immigration status. In addition, verification of child citizen status is not required when the child is served in a program meeting Early Head Start/Head Start standards, such as in Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships, or public educational standards which may include pre-k settings (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/pi-2008-01).

Applicant identity.

Describe:

Name (First, Last and Middle) on the application is verified by government issued photo identification at the time of initial application and during the family's certification period if the information changes. This information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and maintained in the family's case file. The Office of Children's Services verifies this eligibility requirement for children in protective services.

Applicant's relationship to the child.

Describe:

Child's information for determining eligibility (e.g., identity, age, etc.).

Describe:

At the time of initial application or with the addition of a child, proof of age is required for each child listed on the family's application for whom assistance is requested. Verification of age can be: birth or baptismal certificates; adoption records; confirmation papers; hospital, midwife or physician's records; certificates of Indian blood; immigration or naturalization records; school records; or vaccination records. This information is confirmed through the family interview, documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS), and maintained in the family's case file. The Office of Children's Services verifies this eligibility requirement for children in protective services.

At the time of application or the addition of a child, proof of alien status is required, as applicable, for each child who is not a U.S. citizen and assistance is requested (this eligibility requirement does not apply to children in protective services through the Office of Children's Services). Verification can be:

- Lawful Permanent Resident: Form I-551, or for recent arrivals, a temporary I-551 stamp in a foreign passport or on a Form I-94.
- Refugees: Form I-94 endorsed to show entry as a refugee under section 207 of the INA and date of entry to the U.S.; or Form I-668B or I-766 annotated "274a.12(a)(3)" or Form I-571.

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- Asylees: Form I-94 annotated with a stamp showing grant of asylum under section 208 of the INA; a grant letter from the Asylum Office of the USCIS; Form I-668B or I-766 annotated "274a.12(a)(5)"; or an order of an Immigration Judge granting asylum.
- Alien who has had deportation withheld under Sections 241(b)(3) or 243(h) of the INA: Order of an Immigration Judge showing deportation withheld under Section 241(b)(3) or 243(h) and date of grant; or Form I-668B or I-766 annotated "274a.12(A)(10)."
- Alien granted conditional entry under the immigration law in effect before April 1, 1980: Form I-94 with a stamp showing admission under Section 203(a)(7), refugee conditional entry; or Form I-668B or I-766 annotated "274a.12(a)(3)."
- Battered spouse or child of a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident: (1) an approved or pending petition showing a prima facie case that he or she is protected under the Violence Against Women Act; and (2) verification that the individual responsible for the battery or cruelty is no longer living in the household of the victim.
- Victim of Trafficking: letter of certification from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The validity of this letter must be verified and ORR notified of benefits the individual has applied for by calling the toll-free trafficking verification line at 1-866-401-5510. Form I-797 indicating a Class T-3(child) Visa.

This information is confirmed through the family interview, documented in ICCIS, and maintained in the family's case file.

Work.

Describe:

Verification of work is required at the time of the family's initial application and throughout the family's certification period when employment changes. Verification can be: pay stubs, employer verification, Work Number confirmations; or tax documents for self-employed individuals; and/or collateral contacts. The information is confirmed through the family interview, documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS), and maintained in the family's case file. This eligibility requirement does not apply to children in protective services through the Office of Children's Services.

☑ Job Training or Educational Program.

Describe:

Verification of school/job training is required at the time of initial application and throughout the family's certification period when training changes for a job training program or terms change for educational programs. Verification can be: Training or Course registration. The information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and maintained in the family's case file. This eligibility requirement does not apply to children in

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protective services through the Office of Children's Services.

Family Income.

Describe:

Verification of the family's income is required at the time of initial application and throughout the family's certification period when information changes. Verification can be: Social Security Administration letters; Veterans Administration letters; Child Support Services Division printouts; written statements from absent parent stating amount and frequency paid for child support, signed child support affidavits or court orders for child support to be paid and pay stubs showing withholdings; signed and dated statement from the payer documenting the full amount of the assistance and the period it is intended to cover for an educational activity; copy of the educational award letter or financial assistance letter; and/or collateral contacts. The information is confirmed through the family interview and notice sent to the family showing the calculation of the family's countable income. The information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and maintained in the family's case file. This eligibility requirement does not apply to foster children served through the Office of Children's Services.

Household composition.

Describe:

Individuals listed on the family's application are discussed during the family's interview to determine if they are included in the family for child care assistance purposes. Changes in the family must be reported within 10 days of a change occurring throughout the family's certification period. Verification is the family's application and reported changes. This information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and maintained in the family's case file. This eligibility requirement does not apply to foster children served through the Office of Children's Services.

Applicant Residence.

Describe:

The family's physical address as listed on the application is confirmed during the interview. Changes of address are to be reported within 10 days of a change occurring throughout the

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family's certification period. Verification is the family's application and reported changes. This information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) and maintained in the family's case file. The Office of Children's Services verifies this eligibility requirement for children in protective services.

Other

Describe:

Children who are under 18 years of age residing or found in Alaska are considered eligible for foster care sand child protective services through the Office Chld Care Services (OCS). Children in foster care are considered categorically eligible and additional verification is not required. There are no income limits for the families they are placed with. OCS rates for child care are:

- Licensed or Certified Child Care:
 - May authorize the provider's posted rate up to \$700 per month per child for full time care, whichever is lower.
 - May authorize the provider's posted rate up to \$420 per month per child for part time care, whichever is lower.
- Annual registration fee up to \$50 annually, per provider, per child.

Reminder - Lead Agencies are reminded that, for purposes of implementing the citizenship verification requirements mandated by title IV of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, only the citizenship and immigration status of the child, who is the primary beneficiary of the child care benefit, is relevant for eligibility purposes (ACYF-PI-CC-98-08). States may not deny child care benefits to an eligible child because the parent(s), legal guardians, persons standing in loco parentis, or other household members have not provided information regarding their immigration status. In addition, verification of child citizen status is not required when the child is served in a program meeting Early Head Start/Head Start standards, such as in Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships, or public educational standards which may include pre-k settings (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/pi-2008-01).

3.1.8 Which strategies, if any, will the Lead Agency use to assure the timeliness of eligibility determinations upon receipt of applications?

Time limit for making eligibility determinations.

Describe length of time:

Within 30 days of application receipt.

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Track and monitor the eligibility determination process
Other.
Describe:
None

3.1.9 Informing parents who receive TANF benefits about the exception to the individual penalties associated with the TANF work requirement

Per CCDF regulations, Lead Agencies are required to inform parents who receive TANF benefits about the exception to the individual penalties associated with the work requirement for any single custodial parent who has a demonstrated inability to obtain needed child care for a child under 6 years of age (98.16(9) and 98.33(b)). This requirement did not change under the reauthorization. Lead Agencies must coordinate with TANF programs to ensure, pursuant that TANF families with young children will be informed of their right not to be sanctioned if they meet the criteria set forth by the State TANF agency in accordance with section 407(e)(2)of the Social Security Act.

In fulfilling this requirement, the following criteria or definitions are applied by the TANF agency to determine whether the parent has a demonstrated inability to obtain needed child care. **NOTE:** The TANF agency, not the CCDF Lead Agency, is responsible for establishing the following criteria or definitions. These criteria or definitions are offered in this Plan as a matter of public record.

a) Identify the TANF agency that established these criteria or definitions:

State/Territory TANF Agency Alaska/ Department of Health and Social Services/ Division of Public Assistance

b) Provide the following definitions established by the TANF agency.

"appropriate child care":

Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual section 730-2: Appropriate child care is when a child care provider is willing to take care of the participant's children; and is or is willing to become an approved or licensed child care provider.

"reasonable distance":

Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual 730-2: Within 30 minutes travel time by public or

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private transportation from the participant's home or activity site.

"unsuitability of informal child care":

This term is not defined - Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual section 730-2 defines suitable so adjusted for this definition. When child care is not appropriate or within a reasonable distance.

"affordable child care arrangements":

Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual section 730-2: When the family has PASS I assistance to pay the cost.

c) How are parents who receive TANF benefits informed about the exception to individual
penalties associated with the TANF work requirements?
✓ In writing
✓ Verbally
Other.
Describe:
List the citation to this TANF policy.
List:
Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual section 705-3 and 791-1; Alaska Administrative
Procedures Manual sections 102 and 104.

3.1.10 The Lead Agency certifies that it will require a family member to certify that the family assets do not exceed \$1,000,000. A check-off on the application is sufficient

Yes. The Lead Agency certifies that it will require families to certify that the family assets do not exceed \$1,000,000 no later than September 30, 2016.

3.2 Increasing Access for Vulnerable Children and Families

At a minimum, CCDF requires Lead Agencies to give priority for child care assistance to children with special needs, or in families with very low incomes. This did notchange under

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reauthorization. Prioritization of CCDF assistance services is not limited to eligibility determination (i.e., establishment of a waiting list or ranking of eligible families in priority order to be served). Lead Agencies may fulfill priority requirements in other ways such as higher payment rates for providers caring for children with special needs or waiving co-payments for families with very low incomes (at or below the federal poverty level). (658E(c)(3)(B))

3.2.1 Describe how the Lead Agency will prioritize or target child care services for the following children and families (658E(c)(3)(B)), including definitions, any time limits, grace periods or priority rules in the description:

a. Provide definition of "Children with special needs": A child who has been identified as not functioning according to age-appropriate expectations in the areas of affective, cognitive, communicative, perceptual, motor, physical, or social development to the extent that the child may require help, program adjustments, or related services on a regular basis in order to function in an adaptive manner; requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that typically required by a child in the childs age group; or may require one or more of the following services: specialized care for a particular condition; a specially trained caregiver; frequent monitoring of the childs health or medical needs; very close supervision; frequent intervention; or aided physical movement.

and describe how services are prioritized:

Currently Alaska does not have a waitlist. Should the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, need to implement a wait list, priority for children with special needs and children in families with very low incomes will be given over other eligible families. Additional funding is available for providers caring for eligible children with special needs.

Please note: Alaska is currently in the process of revising child care assistance regulations. The definition of children with special needs is proposed to be:

- (A) a child with a disability, as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401);
- (B) a child who is eligible for early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.); and
- (C) a child who is less than 13 years of age and who is eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794.
- b. Provide definition of "Families with very low incomes": A family whose income is equal to or less than 55% of Alaska's State Median Income (SMI). Please note: The Lead Agency, the

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Child Care Program Office, will be re-evaluating this definition when considering revisions to the Family Income and Contribution Schedule referenced earlier.

and describe how services are prioritized:

Currently Alaska does not have a waitlist. Should the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, need to implement a wait list, priority for children in families with very low incomes and children with special needs will be given over other eligible families.

c. Describe how services for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), those attempting to transition off TANF through work activities, and those at risk of becoming dependent on TANF are prioritized (Section 418(b)(2) of the Social Security Act) Currently Alaska does not have a wait list. Should the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, need to implement a wait list the families with very low income (TANF) and/or TANF transitioning families will not be placed on a wait list and will receive benefits upon a determination of eligibility.

3.2.2 Improving Access for Homeless Children and Families.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 places greater emphasis on serving homeless children and families. Stable access to high-quality child care provides tremendous benefits to all children, especially our most vulnerable children. Children and families who experience homelessness face many challenges. Improving access to child care can buffer children and families from the challenges and risks associated with homelessness by supporting children's learning and development in safe, stable and nurturing environments. Under the new law, States and Territories are required to use CCDF funds to 1) allow homeless children to receive CCDF assistance after an initial eligibility determination but before providing required documentation (including documentation related to immunizations); 2) providing training and technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families (addressed in Section 6); and 3) conduct specific outreach to homeless families. (658E(c)(3))

States and Territories also must establish a grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care (if served by the Lead Agency) to receive CCDF assistance while their families are taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements as described in Section 5. This flexibility will make it significantly easier for these vulnerable families to access child care services. This language is consistent with current requirements established through CCDF regulations in 1998, which required a grace period in which children can receive services while families take the necessary actions to comply with the immunization requirements. (658E(c)(2)I)(i)(I)) ACF recommends States and Territories consult the definition of homeless in the McKinney-Vento Act (section 725 of subtitle VII-B) as you implement the requirements of this section as that definition is consistent with the required

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CCDF administrative data reporting requirements.

Describe the status of the State/Territory's procedures to enroll and provide outreach to homeless families and establish a grace period for children in foster care, if served, for meeting immunization requirements

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016. Describe the following:

- a. Procedures to increase access to CCDF subsidies for homeless children and families, including the grace period to comply with immunization and health and safety requirements
- b. Procedures to conduct outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services
- c. Procedures to provide a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment for children who are in foster care if served by the Lead Agency to improve access to child care services

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 12/31/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) allows homeless children to receive CCDF funds (child care assistance) and new Child Care Licensing regulation, effective May 15, 2016 allow for a grace period for providing immunization verification

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prior to enrollment with a licensed provider.

Revisions to regulations, policies, and procedures are required to fully meet this requirement. The CCPO has drafted the necessary revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this provision. These regulation revisions are in the public comment process from April 21, 2016 - June 13, 2016. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays.

In December 2014 the CCPO began drafting regulation revisions to 7 AAC 41.315(e) Family applications, based on the CCDBG reauthorization specific to homeless children. These revisions define homeless children under the McKinney-Vento homeless Education Assistance Act and state certain application documentation may be delayed by a period of 90 days if a family is homeless. Should it be necessary to implement a wait list, a child of a family who is homeless is included in the priority for services and will not be placed on the wait list but will immediately receive benefits upon a determination of eligibility.

The CCPO has partnered across the Division of Public Assistance to ensure alignment wherever practicable. Input has been solicited from: Child Care Assistance Grantees: Work Services Providers: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; families; providers; and the general public. The CCPO is utilizing a Division of Public Assistance-wide contractor to assist in the drafting of regulation revisions.

The CCPO will continue with drafting revisions to policies and procedures based on the final draft of proposed regulation revisions. The final policies and procedures will be implemented with the adoption of revised regulations anticipated by December 31, 2016.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented A grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care (if served by the Lead Agency) to receive CCDF assistance while their families are taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements as described in Section 5.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include a grace period for homeless children and children in foster care to comply with immunization requirements to expedite enrollment and to include a grace period to provide eligibility requirements at the time of application to improve access.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; Division of Public Health, Epidemiology; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include a grace period for homeless children and children in foster care to comply with

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immunization requirements to expedite enrollment and to include a grace period to provide eligibility requirements at the time of application to improve access.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees and the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; Division of Public Health, Epidemiology; and Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, and TANF Work Services staff.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Service staff; Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented 3) conduct specific outreach to homeless families. (658E(c)(3))

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Alaska Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) brochures will be distributed to the family shelters in communities and with the Statewide Coordinator for Homeless Education.

- Collaborate with the Statewide Coordinator for Homeless Education to provide CCAP brochures to homeless families.
- Contact homeless shelters in Alaskan communities to provide CCAP brochures.
- Determine timeframe for distribution of CCAP brochures (quarterly or more).

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Alaskan homeless shelters; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; and TANF Work Services Providers.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented 2) providing training and technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving

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homeless children and families (addressed in Section 6); and

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Materials and resources to provide training and technical assistance will be distributed to child care providers.

- Collaborate with the Statewide Coordinator for Homeless
 Education to obtain materials and resources helpful for child care
 providers regarding homeless children and families.
- Distribute materials to child care providers through Child Care
 Assistance Program offices and on a resource list for participating providers.
- Make materials and resources available on the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

3.3 Protection for Working Parents

3.3.1 Twelve Month Eligibility

The CCDBG Act of 2014 establishes a 12-month eligibility period for CCDF families. States are required to demonstrate in the Plan that no later than September 30, 2016 each child who

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receives assistance will be considered to meet all eligibility requirements for such assistance and will receive such assistance, for not less than 12 months before the State redetermines the eligibility of the child, regardless of changes in income (as long as income does not exceed the federal threshold of 85% of State median income) or temporary changes in participation in work, training, or education activities. (658E(c)(2)(N)(i) &(ii))

Note that this change means a State <u>may not</u> terminate CCDF assistance during the 12 month period if a family has an increase in income that exceeds the State's income eligibility threshold, but not the federal threshold of 85% SMI.

In addition, this change means the State <u>may not</u> terminate assistance prior to the end of the 12 month period if family experiences a temporary job loss or temporary change in participation in a training or education activity. For example, if a working parent is temporarily absent from employment due to extended medical leave, changes in seasonal work schedule, or a parent enrolled in training or educational program is temporarily not attending class between semesters, the state should not terminate assistance.

Describe the status of the State's establishment of a 12-month eligibility re-determination period for CCDF families.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016. List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe circumstances considered temporary changes in work, education or training that are not subject to termination List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe circumstances considered temporary changes in work, education or training that are not subject to termination

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 12/31/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's status toward complete implementation for any requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if

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applicable

Revisions to regulations, policies, and procedures are required to meet this requirement. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has drafted the necessary revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this provision. These regulation revisions are in the public comment process from April 21, 2016 - June 13, 2016. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays.

In December 2014, the CCPO began drafting regulation revisions to 7 AAC 41 Child Care Assistance Program based on the CCDBG reauthorization specific to twelvementh eligibility provisions.

Informational meetings with Child Care Assistance participating families and providers along with grantees and other partners were held throughout the state during December 2014 and again in December 2015 to gather input regarding implementing a graduated phase out. Proposed regulation revisions were submitted to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services early 2016 for posting to solicit public comment and complete the regulation adoption process.

The CCPO has partnered across the Division of Public Assistance to ensure alignment wherever practicable. Input has been solicited from: Child Care Assistance Grantees: Work Services Providers: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; families; providers; and the general public. The CCPO is utilizing a Division of Public Assistance-wide contractor to assist in the drafting of regulation revisions.

The CCPO will continue with drafting revisions to policies and procedures based on the final draft of proposed regulation revisions. The final policies and procedures will be implemented with the adoption of revised regulations anticipated by December 31, 2016.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented A minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination period for CCDF families.

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Tasks/Activities -What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include a minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination period for families.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities -What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include a minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination period for families.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality
 Assessment team.

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Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities -What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Complete necessary programming enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) to include new subsidy payment rates.

- 2/22/2016 Submit a work request detailing the needed ICCIS enhancements to the Family Module to allow 12 month eligibility and a 12 month child car authorization.
- 3/1/2016 Convene a series of design and programming meetings with the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations and associated contractor, and the DPA Research Analyst.
 Meetings will continue until task is complete.
- Notify staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, and Work Services staff of date Child Care Assistance Authorizations will need to be reissued.
- 12/1/2016 System testing prior to implementation.

Projected start date for each activity: 02/22/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Division of Public Assistance, Systems Operations and associated contractor; Division of Public Assistance Research Analyst; Child Care Assistance Program

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designees; Office of Children's Services; and Work Services staff.

Tasks/Activities -What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

3.3.2 State and Territory option to terminate assistance prior to 12 months

The CCDBG Act of 2014 provides States and Territories the option - but does not require them - to terminate assistance prior to re-determination at 12 months if a parent loses employment or if he or she stops attending a job training or education program (i.e., if the parent experiences a non-temporary change in their status as working, or participating in a training or education program). However, prior to terminating the subsidy, the State/Territory must provide a period of continued child care assistance of at least 3 months to allow parents to engage in job search,

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resume work, or to attend an education or training program as soon as possible. (658E(c)(2)(N)(iii)) Nothing in the statute prohibits the State/Territory from starting a new 12-month eligibility and redetermination period if families are eligible at the end of their job search, training or education attendance period.

Note that unless the State allows a minimum 3-month job search period - the State/Territory may not exercise the option to terminate assistance based on a parent's non-temporary job loss or cessation of attendance at a job training or educational program prior to the end of the minimum 12-month eligibility and re-determination period. The statute does not specify any documentation that States/Territories must require parents to submit regarding activities during periods of job search or finding training or education program requirements for this period.

Does the State/Territory terminate assistance prior to 12 months due to a parent's non-temporary loss of work or cessation of attendance at a job training or education program?

Tyes, the State/Territory terminates assistance prior to 12 months due to parent's loss of work or cessation of attendance at a job training or education program ONLY.

List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe the circumstances considered to be non-temporary job, education or training loss and provide the duration allowed for job search or resuming attendance in training or education programs

☑ No, the State/Territory does not allow this option.

3.3.3 Prevent Disruption of Work

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that States and Territories must describe in the Plan the procedures and policies in place to ensure that parents (especially parents in families receiving assistance under TANF) are not required to unduly disrupt their employment, education or job training activities in order to comply with the State/Territory's or designated local entity's requirements for redetermination of eligibility for assistance. (658E(c)(2)(N)(ii)) Examples include implementing re-determination strategies to verify income and employment electronically as opposed to more onerous practices such as asking parents and families to come to the subsidy office for an in-person visit, or aligning eligibility with other early care and education or public benefits programs to collect information centrally. The process by which States and Territories collect eligibility documentation represents a potential barrier to services, particularly when documentation can only be provided in-person during standard work hours. States and Territories can offer a variety of family-friendly mechanisms for submitting documentation for eligibility determinations and/or re-determination.

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Describe the status of the State/Territory's redetermination procedures and policies to ensure that parents (especially parents receiving TANF) do not have their employment, education or job training unduly disrupted in order to comply with the State/Territory's or designated local entity's requirements for redetermination of eligibility.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1, 2016.

List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe the policies and procedures for not unduly disrupting employment

Parents in families receiving assistance under TANF, applying for or receiving child care assistance, do not submit an application for participation in the Child Care Assistance Program. These families are determined eligible based on their eligibility to receive TANF.

Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual section 305 states: Parent's Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) II and PASS III participating families submit an application with supporting verification to renew their participation annually and participate in an interview. The application and verification can be submitted via fax, mail, or in person. The interview can be conducted via telephone or in-person.

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

3.4 Family Contribution to Payment

The statute requires Lead Agencies to establish a sliding fee scale that varies based on <u>income</u> and the size of the family to be used in determining each family's contribution (i.e., co-payment) to the cost of child care that is not a barrier to families receiving CCDF. (658E(c)(5) In addition to income and size of the family, the Lead Agency may use other factors when determining family contributions/co-payments. The sliding fee scale is subject to review by ACF as part of ongoing monitoring efforts to CCDBG compliance.

3.4.1 Provide the CCDF copayments in the chart below according to family size.

Note - If the sliding fee scale is not statewide, check here and describe how many jurisdictions set their own sliding fee scale

Fill in the chart based on the most populous area of the State.

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Family Size	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
U.	Lowest "Entry" Income Level Where Copaym ent First Applied	What is the monthly copayment for a family of this size upon initial entry into CCDF?	What is the percent of income for (b)?	Maximu m Highest "Entry" Income Level Before No Longer Eligible	What is the monthly copayment for a family of this size upon initial entry into CCDF?	What is the percent of income for (e)?
1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
2	57	20	35%	4250	425	10%
3	60	20	33%	4524	425	10%
4	62	20	32%	4614	461	10%
5	67	20	30%	5045	504	10%

- a) What is the effective date of the sliding fee scale(s)? November 1, 2010
- b) Provide the link to the sliding fee scale http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/parents.aspx

3.4.2 How will the family's contribution be calculated and to whom will it be applied? Check all that the Lead Agency has chosen to use.

Fee as dollar amount and
Fee is per child with the same fee for each child
Fee is per child and discounted fee for two or more children
Fee is per child up to a maximum per family
No additional fee charged after certain number of children
Fee is per family
Fee as percent of income and
\square Fee is per child with the same percentage applied for each child
Fee is per child and discounted percentage applied for two or more children
Fee is per child up to a maximum per family
No additional percentage applied charged after certain number of children
Fee is per family
Contribution schedule varies because it is set locally/regionally (as indicated in 1.2.1).
Describe:

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Other. Describe:
3.4.3 Will the Lead Agency use other factors in addition to income and family size to determine each family's copayment? (658E(c)(3)(B)) ☐ Yes, and describe those additional factors using the checkboxes below. ☐ Number of hours the child is in care ☐ Lower copayments for higher quality of care as defined by the State/Territory ☐ Other. ☐ Describe other factors. ☑ No.
3.4.4 The Lead Agency may waive contributions/co-payments from families whose incomes are at or below the poverty level for a family of the same size.
Will the Lead Agency waive family contributions/co-payments? Yes, the Lead Agency waives family contributions/co-payments for families with income at or below the poverty level for families of the same size.
The poverty level used by the Lead Agency for a family size of 3 is \$ Mo, the Lead Agency does not waive family contributions/co-payments
3.4.5 How will the Lead Agency ensure the family contribution/co-payment, based on a sliding fee scale, is affordable? Check all that apply:
Chook an that apply.

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Limits the maximum co-payment per family.
Describe:
Co-payments are based on the family's monthly income and their household size. Co-
payments are assessed per family regardless of the number of children or family size. The
minimum amount is \$20.00 and the maximum is ten percent (10%) of the family's countable
income up to the eligibility cutoff of seventy-five percent (75%) of the 2008 State Median
Income (SMI) according to family size.
Limits combined amount of copayment for all children to a percentage of family income.
List the percentage of the copayment limit.
Describe:
\square Minimizes the abrupt termination of assistance before a family can afford the full cost of
care ("the cliff effect") as part of the graduated phase-out of assistance discussed in 3.1.5.
Describe:
Does not allow providers to charge families the difference between the maximum
payment rate (addressed in section 4) and their private pay rate in addition to the copayment
they are paying.
Describe:
Describe.
Covers all fees (such as registration, supplies, field trips) to minimize the additional fees
charged to the families by the provider.
Describe:
_
Other.
Describe:

4 Ensure Equal Access to High Quality Child Care for Low-Income Children

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The 2014 reauthorization of the CCDBG Act is designed to help States and Territories advance improvements to the quality of child care in order to promote the healthy social-emotional, cognitive and physical development of participating children. Ensuring that low-income and vulnerable children can access high-quality care (and remain enrolled to school entry and beyond) is an equally important purpose of CCDBG. Payment levels and policies have a major impact on access.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 revises the requirement for a market rate survey (MRS) so that: 1) it must be statistically valid and reliable; and (2) it must reflect variations in the cost of child care services by geographic area, type of provider, and age of child. Also, a State/Territory may develop and conduct an alternative methodology for setting payment rates, such as a cost estimation model, to take into account the cost of meeting quality requirements.

To provide stability of funding and encourage more child care providers to participate in the subsidy program, the State/Territory's payment practices for CCDF child care providers must reflect generally accepted payment practices of non-CCDF child care providers in the State/Territory, such as paying for supplies, field trips, registration fees. In addition, to the extent practicable, the State/Territory must implement enrollment and eligibility policies that support the fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider payments from a child's occasional absence due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances such as illness or closures due to emergency.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that the State/Territory must also develop and implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care services for: (1) children in underserved areas; (2) infants and toddlers; (3) children with disabilities (the CCDBG Act of 2014 added a new definition of child with disability (658(P)(3)); and (4) children who receive care during non-traditional hours. With respect to investments to increase access to programs providing high-quality child care and development services, the State/Territory must give priority to children of families in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment and that do not have such programs. (658 E(c)(2)(M))

4.1 Parental Choice In Relation to Certificates, Grants or Contracts

The parent(s) of each eligible child who receive(s) or is offered financial assistance for child care services has the option of either enrolling such child with a provider that has a grant or contract for the provision of service or receiving a child care certificate. (658E(c)(2)(A)) This did not change under the CCDBG Act of 2014.

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4.1.1 Describe how the parent of each eligible child is advised that the Lead Agency offers the option of selecting a provider that has a grant or contract or receiving a child care certificate (658E(c)(2)(A)(i), 658P(2))

Currently, Alaska provides benefits through a child care certificate (authorization), with the exception of child care services offered through a grant in one of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance offices in Anchorage. Only families accessing services within the Public Assistance office may utilize these child care services at this time.

A parent(s) may choose from a variety of providers, including licensed centers, group homes and homes as well as legally exempt regulated care providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, plans to further explore the use of grants or contracts to support Alaska's early care and learning system.

4.1.2 Describe how the parent is informed of the option to choose from a variety of child

the state of the s	
care categories - such as private, not-for-profit, faith-based providers (if using a	
certificate), centers, family child care homes, or in-home providers (658E(c)(2)(A)(i),	
658P(2), 658Q))	
Certificate form provides information about the choice of providers, including high qua	ality
providers	
Certificate is not linked to a specific provider so parents can choose provider of choic	е
Consumer education materials on choosing child care	
☑ Referral to child care resource and referral agencies	
☑ Co-located resource and referral in eligibility offices	
✓ Verbal communication at the time of application	
☑ Community outreach, workshops or other in-person activities	
Other.	
Describe	

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4.1.3 Child Care Services Available through Grants or Contracts

a) In addition to offering certificates, does the Lead Agency provide child care services through grants or contracts for child care slots? (658A(b)(1) Note: Do not check "yes" if every provider is simply required to sign an agreement in order to be paid in the certificate program.
Yes. If yes, describe
the type(s) of child care services available through grants or contracts
the entities who receive contracts (e.g., shared services alliances, child care resource and referral agencies, family child care networks, community based agencies, child care providers, etc.)
the process for accessing grants or contracts
the range of providers available through grants or contracts
how rates for contracted slots are set for grants and contracts
how the State/Territory determines which entities to contract with for increasing supply and/or improving quality
if contracts are offered statewide and/or locally:
☑No. If no, skip to 4.1.4.
b) Will the Lead Agency use grants or contracts for child care services to achieve any of the following (check all that apply):
Increase the supply of specific types of care with grants or contracts for:
Programs to serve children with disabilities
Programs to serve infants and toddlers

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Programs to serve school-age children
Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care
Programs to serve homeless children
Programs to serve children in underserved areas
Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds
Programs that serve specific geographic areas
Urban
Rural
Other.
Describe:
Improve the quality of child care programs with grants or contracts for:
Programs providing comprehensive services, such as integrated child care in Head
Start, Early Head Start, summer or other programs
Programs meeting higher quality standards, such as higher rated QRIS programs,
accreditation or state pre-k programs that meet higher quality standards
Programs that provide financial incentives to teaching staff linked to higher
education and qualifications link increased education requirements to higher
compensation
Programs to serve children with disabilities or special needs
Programs to serve infants and toddlers
Programs to serve school-age children
Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care
Programs to serve homeless children
Programs to serve children in underserved areas
Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds
Programs that serve specific geographic areas
□Urban
Rural
Other.
Describe:

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4.1.4 The Lead Agency certifies policies and procedures are in place that afford parents unlimited access to their children whenever their children are in the care of a provider who receives CCDF funds.

(658E(c)(2)(B)) This requirement did not change under the CCDBG Act of 2014. Describe the policies and procedures for unlimited access

Describe the policies and procedures for unlimited access

Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.215(e)(5) currently states a provider shall provide a parent with access to the parent's child when the child is in care. Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual section 220 supports this requirement.

Proposed regulation revisions to Child Care Assistance Program 7 AAC 41.211(g) strengthens this requirement, stating the provider shall encourage parental involvement and allow parents unlimited access to their children, provider, and to all areas of the child care facility, to observe or participate. The Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual will be revised accordingly based upon the outcome of the pending regulation revisions.

4.1.5 The Lead Agency must allow for in-home care (i.e., care provided in the child's own home) but may limit its use. Will the Lead Agency limit the use of in-home care in any way?

all that apply.
Restricted based on minimum number of children in the care of the provider to meet
minimum wage law or Fair Labor Standards Act
Describe:

Restricted based on provider meeting a minimum age requirement Describe:

A caregiver hired by the family to provide in-home child care services must be at least 18

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years of age.	
Restricted based on hours hours) Describe:	of care (certain number of hours, non-traditional work
Restricted to care by relative Describe:	ves
Restricted to care for child	ren with special needs or medical condition
Describe: An in-home caregiver must re Background Check Program a	iders that meet some basic health and safety requirements ceive a valid criminal history check through the Alaska and be approved to participate in the Child Care Assistance referenced in Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7
□ _{No} .	

4.2 Assessing Market Rates and Child Care Costs

The new law revises the requirement for a market rate survey (MRS) so that: (1) it must be statistically valid and reliable; and (2) it must reflect variations in the cost of child care services by geographic area, type of provider, and age of child (658E(c)(4)(B)). A State/Territory has the option to develop and use a statistically valid and reliable alternative methodology for setting payment rates, such as a cost estimation model. Any payment rates established using an

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alternative methodology or market rate survey must be reviewed and approved by ACF as part of the CCDF Plan review process. Because the alternative methodology is a new basis for setting payment rates, we highly recommend any State or Territory considering an alternative methodology to submit a description of its proposed approach to the ACF Regional Office in advance of the Plan submittal in order to avoid delays with Plan approval. (see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-reauthorization-faq).

The MRS or alternative methodology must be developed and conducted no earlier than two years before the date of submission of the Plan (instead of two years before the effective date of the Plan, as previously required for the MRS).

The State must consult with the State Advisory Council, local child care program administrators, local child care resource and referral agencies, and other appropriate entities prior to developing and conducting the MRS or alternative methodology.

The State must prepare a detailed report containing the results of the MRS or alternative methodology. The State must make the report with these results widely available no later than 30 days after completion of the MRS or alternative methodology, including by posting the results on the Internet.

The State must set CCDF subsidy payment rates in accordance with the results of the current MRS or alternative methodology. When setting payment rates, the State must take into consideration the cost of providing higher quality child care services than were provided prior to November 2014 (e.g., tiered reimbursement or other methods) and without, **to the extent practicable**, reducing the number of families receiving CCDF relative to the number served as of November 2014. In taking the cost of providing quality into consideration, it is important to consider such key factors as what it takes to support increased stability and reduced provider turnover when setting payment rates.

4.2.1 Developing and Conducting a Market Rate Survey (MRS) and/or an Alternative
Methodology. Did the State/Territory conduct a statistically and valid and reliable MRS,
alternative methodology or both between July 1, 2013 and March 1, 2016?

™ MRS
Alternative Methodology.
Describe:
□Both.
Describe:

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Other.	
Describe:	

4.2.2 Describe how the State consulted with the State Advisory Council (SAC) or other state- or state-designated cross-agency body if there is no SAC, local child care program administrators, local child care resource and referral agencies, and other appropriate entities which could include worker organizations prior to developing and conducting the MRS or alternative methodology.

Describe:

In 2015, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), partnered with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, in coordination with SEED (System for Early Education Development), and Learn & Grow (Alaska's Quality and Recognition System- QRIS) to identify questions and data that were being asked and information collected on through numerous venues: federal and state reports; thread and State databases; surveys; and training evaluations, etc. Internal members of this group were the CCPO Child Care Assistance, Child Care Licensing, Support, Administrative, and Accounting teams.

The group identified gaps in information being collected and explored options on how best to collect this information. This conversation was used to inform and revise the questions asked in the 2015 Market Price Survey to better understand Alaska's child care market. A particular area of interest was trying to determine why a provider would chose to operate below the maximum capacity they could be operating at for their licensed child care provider type. Another primary area was collecting the number of enrolled children for a part month and full month which would allow for a better evaluation of needed revisions to Alaska's Child Care Assistance Rate Schedule (state subsidy rates).

Because of this conversation additional questions in the 2015 Market Price Survey included: if the provider is operating at full capacity and if not, reason(s) why; the number of children in care by age group with full month and part month enrollment for February 2015; the number of children in care by age group with full day and part day attendance on April 8, 2015; incentives for reduced child care prices; registration fee information, including prices per child, family and siblings, and incentives for reduced fees made available to families; and the

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provider's business type. The survey also included questions that were used in the prior 2013 Market Price Survey: the number of children in care by age group who attended a part or a full day on April 8, 2015; and the number of children in care by age group on a provider's waitlist.

4.2.3 Describe how the market rate survey or alternative methodology is statistically valid and reliable.

To be considered valid and reliable, the MRS or alternative methodology must represent the child care market, provide complete and current data, use rigorous data collection procedures, reflect geographic variation, and analyze data in a manner that captures other relevant differences. For example, market rate surveys can use administrative data such as child care resource and referral data if they are representative of the market. If an alternative methodology such as cost modeling is used, demonstrate that the methodology used reliable models that estimated the cost of delivering services in center- and home-based settings at each level of quality defined by the State/Territory.

Describe:

All licensed child care providers within the State of Alaska who were in Open/ Active status in April 2015 were sent the *2015 Market Price Survey*.

Information from Alaska's licensed child care providers was gathered through two processes: an administrative update of the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), child care database and a market price survey. The administrative data update collected the following information from the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS), for active licensed child care providers who were participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), as well as non-participating providers:

- Provider's prices for a full month and a part month; and
- Per the age groups of: infant; toddler; preschool age; and school age.

The 2015 Market Price Survey collected the following information:

- If the provider is operating at full capacity and if not, reason(s) why;
- Full month and part month enrollment for February 2015;
- Full day and part day attendance on April 8, 2015;
- Wait list information;
- Incentives for reduced prices:
- Registration fee information, including incentives for reduced fees made available to families; and
- The provider's business type.

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- Demographic information such as legal name of the provider, administrator or owner's name, mailing address, physical address, telephone number and email.

Providers were sent a letter in advance to inform them of the upcoming survey, and to allow CCPO staff to update provider information in ICCIS. Providers were offered three ways to respond to the survey: through a web-based tool (Survey Monkey); completing a hard copy of their responses; or providing responses by phone.

Providers who indicated they were non-English speakers were contacted using the services of an interpreter and were offered the opportunity to take the survey via phone or in person. Providers who did not respond to the survey in the first two weeks of the survey period received a reminder notice by e-mail. CCPO staff reached out to non-respondents three times to encourage participation and collect responses by phone. For rate regions with few providers, extra effort was made to assure a 100% response rate.

Analyze data in a manner that captures other relevant differences:

The units of care used for price and state rate comparisons in the provider price tables section of the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report (Report) are full month and part month enrollment prices for licensed: centers; group homes; and homes.

Provider price tables in the *Report* identify the following: the Child Care Assistance Rate Region; the number of child care providers who participated is the survey; the number of children in care, by age group, for the month February 2015; and show the providers' price range (Minimum, 25th percentile, 50th percentile (median), 75th percentile and Maximum).

4.2.4 Describe how the market rate survey reflects variations in the price of child care services by:

a) Geographic area (e.g., statewide or local markets):

Prices from providers in all nine Child Care Assistance Rate Regions, encompassing the entire state, were captured and included in the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report.

b) Type of provider:

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Tables and figures (charts) included in the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report identify the data by the licensed provider type: center; group home; or home. c) Age of child:

Tables and figures (charts) included in the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report identify the data by the age group of the child: infant (birth through 18 months); toddler (19 months through 36 months); preschool age child (37 months through 6 years); and school age child (7 years through 12 years).

d) Describe any other key variations examined by the market rate survey, such as quality level

The 2015 Market Price Survey asked for other qualitative data to better understand Alaska's child care market. A particular area of interest was trying to determine why a provider would chose to operate below the maximum capacity they could be operating at for their licensed child care provider type. Another primary area was collecting the number of enrolled children for a part month and full month which would allow for a better evaluation of needed revisions to Alaska's Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule (state subsidy rates).

These additional questions in the 2015 Market Price Survey included: if the provider is operating at full capacity and if not, reason(s) why; the number of children in care by age group with full month and part month enrollment for February 2015; the number of children in care by age group with full day and part day attendance on April 8, 2015; incentives for reduced child care prices; registration fee information, including prices per child, family and siblings, and incentives for reduced fees made available to families; and the provider's business type.

4.2.5 Describe the process used by the State to make the results of the market rate survey widely available to the public.

- a) Date of completion of the market rate survey or alternative methodology (must be no earlier than July 1, 2013 and no later than March 1, 2016)

 1/25/2016
- b) Date report containing results were made widely available, no less than 30 days after the completion of the report 1/26/2016

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c) How the report containing results was made widely available and provide the link where the report is posted if available

a)The 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report (Report) was made available on the CCPO website at http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx on January 26, 2016. The State Administrator/Child Care Program Manager sent an email Broadcast to CCPO staff on January 25, 2016 notifying them of the finalization of the Report. On January 27, 2016, a similar Broadcast was emailed to: licensed child care providers; Child Care Assistance Program Grantees; Office of Child Care, Region X staff; Alaska Child Care and Development Fund Tribal Grantees; Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (state advisory council) members; and other early care and learning partners. All recipients were encouraged to assist the CCPO in distributing the information, as they deemed appropriate, and included the name and contact information of the individual within the CCPO who serves as the point of contact for inquiries/questions regarding the Report.

4.3 Setting Payment Rates

4.3.1 Provide the base payment rates and percentiles (based on current MRS or alternative methodology) for the following categories. The ages and types of care listed below are meant to provide a snapshot of categories on which rates may be based and are not intended to be comprehensive of all categories that may exist in your State/Territory or reflective of the terms that your State/Territory may use for particular ages. Please use the most populous geographic region (serving highest number of children).

Note - If the payment rates are not set by the State/Territory, check here Describe how many jurisdictions set their own payment rates

None.

a) Infant (6 months), full-time licensed center care in most populous geographic region

Rate \$ 850 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)

Percentile: 11th

b) Infant (6 months), full-time licensed FCC care in most populous geographic region

Rate \$ 700 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)

Percentile: 45th

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c) Toddler (18 months), full-time licensed center care in most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 800 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)
Percentile: 21st
```

d) Toddler (18 months), full-time licensed FCC care in most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 650 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) Percentile: 45th
```

e) Preschooler (4 years), full-time licensed center care in the most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 650 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)

Percentile: 11th
```

f) Preschooler (4 years), full-time licensed FCC care in the most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 545 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) Percentile: 28th
```

g) School-age child (6 years), full-time licensed center care in the most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 625 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)
Percentile: 5th
```

h) School-age child (6 years), full-time licensed FCC care in the most populous geographic region

```
Rate $ 501 per month unit of time (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)
Percentile: 50th
```

i) Describe the calculation/definition of full-time care:

17 or more full days of care during a calendar month, based on a five-day-a-week schedule. A full day care is defined as more than five hours and one minute of care up to and including 10 hours of care.

j) Provide the effective date of the payment rates: The State of Alaska's current state subsidy rates are referenced in 7 AAC 41.025 and are established in the Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule, effective March 1, 2010.

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k) Provide the link to the payment rates:
http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/dpa/programs/ccare/forms/Child-Care-AssistanceProgram-Effective-2010-03-Final.pdf. Rates for children receiving child care assistance
through the Reimbursable Services Agreement with the Office of Children's Services can be
found in 3.1.7.

4.3.2 States and Territories may choose to set base payment rates that differ because they take into consideration such factors as 1) geographic location, 2) age of child, 3) needs of children (special needs, protective services, etc.), 4) non-traditional hours of care, or 5) quality of care.

In other words, base rates for infants may be set at a higher level than for school-age care because the cost of providing infant care tends to be higher than school-age care. In addition to these rates that differ tied to market variations in prices, States and Territories can choose to establish tiered rates or add-ons on top of these variable base rates as a way to increase payment rates for targeted needs (i.e., higher rate for special needs children as both an incentive for providers to serve children with special needs and as a way to cover the higher costs to the provider to provide care for special needs children).

Check which types of tiered payment or rate add-on, if any, the Lead Agency has chosen to implement. In the description of any tiered rates or add-ons, indicate the process and basis used for determining the tiered rates, amount or percentage of the tiered rate/add-on, and indicate if the rates were set based on the MRS or another process.

Tiered rate/rate add-on for non-traditional hours.	
Describe:	

Tiered rate/rate add-on for children with special needs as defined by the State/Territory.

Describe:

Child care providers providing care to a child with a diagnosed disability can receive supplemental payments through the Child Care Assistance Program, known as Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!), based on the needs of the child. Alaska IN! is applicable to licensed child care homes, group homes, centers, and license exempt providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program. The supplemental payment is a percentage increment based on the authorized cost of care and the actual cost incurred by the provider to provide the additional services specific to the child's need.

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lered rate/rate add-on for infants and toddlers (do not check if you have a different bas
rate for infants/toddlers with no separate bonus or add-on).
Describe:
Tiered rate/rate add-on for programs meeting higher quality as defined by the
State/Territory.
Describe:
_
Tiered rate/rate add-on for programs serving homeless children.
Describe:
Other tiered rate/rate add-on beyond the base rate.
Describe:
Licensed providers may be eligible for additional funding through the Child Care Grant
Program based on the number of children in care participating in the Child Care
Assistance Program.
Assistance Frogram.
None

4.3.3 Describe how the State/Territory set payment rates for child care services in accordance with the results of the most recent market rate survey or alternative methodology

Describe:

Data from the most recent market price survey (the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report completed in January 2016) shows the following comparison to the state's current subsidy rates (effective March 2010). This shows the percentage of children (statewide) in full month enrollment care charged above the state subsidy rate by licensed provider type:

- Licensed Centers: Over half of children in all age groups were charged above the state rate (69% of infants, 57% of toddlers, 73% of preschool age children, and 55% of school age children).
- Licensed Group Homes: Over one third of children in all age groups were charged above the state rate (42% of infants, 34% of toddlers, 40% of preschool age children and 38% of school age children).

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- Licensed Homes (Family Child Care): At least half of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were charged above the state rate (50%, 54%, and 64% respectively), while less than half of school age children (43%) were charged above the state rate.

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) will use the information from the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report, as well as information from the Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska October 2015 Final Report and true cost of care information pertaining to Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), to inform revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule. The subsidy rate changes will be implemented through:

- Revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations which must have approval by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services approval and be signed by the Lieutenant Governor; and
- System enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System.

4.3.4 In setting payment rates, how did the State/Territory take into consideration the cost of providing higher quality child care services than were provided prior to November 2014 (e.g., tiered payment or other methods) and without, to the extent practicable, reducing the number of families receiving CCDF relative to the number of families served as of November 2014.

For example, providing tiered payment with a sufficient differential to support higher quality, considering the cost of quality using a cost estimation model or other method, or examining the participation rate of high-quality providers in the subsidy system (e.g., using indicators from a quality rating system, accreditation or other state-defined indicators of quality) and adjusting payment rates if necessary.

Describe:

Alaska's current payment rates, effective March 1, 2010, do not reflect the results of the most recent market price survey conducted in 2015. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), plans to use the information from the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report, as well as information from the Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska October 2015 Final Report, and true cost of care information pertaining to Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), to inform revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule upon approval from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance.

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In addition to the base subsidy rate, the Child Care Grant Program (CCG) supports efforts to ensure equal access to quality care through enhanced compensation to providers. The CCPO through the CCG provides funding to eligible licensed child care providers on a monthly basis to enhance their program's quality. CCG funds may be used for child development education and training. Licensed child care providers may receive anywhere from \$30 - \$50 per child, per month, depending upon their geographical location. In Fiscal Year 2015 the following was reimbursed to programs through the CCG:

- \$14,538 for child development education and training;
- \$21,785.36 for costs related to health and safety;
- \$53,983.71 for supplies, equipment and activities for children; and
- \$2,789,669.14 for staff, salaries, and wages.

4.4 Summary of Facts Used to Determine that Payments Rates Are Sufficient to Ensure Equal Access

The CCDF plan shall provide a summary of data and facts relied on by the State/Territory to certify that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access. (658E (c)(4)(A)) Equal access is not limited to a single percentile alone but is inclusive of various metrics or benchmarks that would offer children receiving CCDF access to the same services (type of care, quality of care) as children not receiving CCDF.

4.4.1 What data and facts did the State use to determine equal access (i.e., what is your

	hmark of equal access - such as percentile that rates cover or proportion ed)? Check all that apply and describe.
Payment	rates are set at the 75th percentile or higher of the most recent survey.
Describe	:
Using tier	ed rates/differential rates as described in 4.3.3 to increase access for targeted
☐Rates bas	sed on data on the cost to the provider of providing care meeting certain
standards	
Describe	

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Data on the size of the difference (in terms of dollars) between payment rates and the
75th percentile in the most recent survey, if rates are below the 75th percentile. Describe:
Data on the proportion of children receiving subsidy being served by high-quality providers. Describe:

Data on where children are being served showing access to the full range of providers. .

Describe:

The Child Care Program Office Monthly Report located at http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/reports.aspx Table 4, shows the "Number of Children per Facility Type with an Authorization by Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Rate Region". For the October 2015 report, of the 4,382 children authorized care, 3,631 (83%) were in licensed child care, 462 (11%) were in legally exempt non-relative or relative child care, 269 (6%) were in in-home care, and 20 (.005%) were in military center care.

Data on how rates set below the 75th percentile allow CCDF families access to the same quality of care as families not receiving CCDF.

Describe:

The 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report gives, in tables, a breakdown of data by licensed provider type and geographical rate region. This data shows there is no state subsidy rate for any licensed provider type or geographical location set at more than the 75th percentile (all are set below the 75th percentile). The data also shows of the total of licensed providers surveyed, only 31 of the 422 are not participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). This equates to 93% of licensed providers participating in the CCAP, which provides families access to the same quality care as families not receiving child care assistance.

In addition, the CCPO offers the Child Care Grant Program, which reimburses between

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\$50-\$50 per child, per month to licensed child care providers for those providers
participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) with CCAP children in
attendance.
Feedback from parents, including parent survey or parent complaints.
Describe:
Other.
Describe:

4.4.2 Does the State/Territory certify that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access either based on the current MRS or alternative methodology?

Does the State/Territory certify that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access either based on the current MRS or alternative methodology?

Yes. The State/Territory certifies that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access by March 1, 2016.

Provide the State/Territory definition of how its payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 07/01/2017

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

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Alaska's current payment rates, effective March 1, 2010, do not reflect the results of the most recent market price survey conducted in 2015.

Revisions to regulations, policies, and procedures are required to meet this requirement. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has drafted the necessary revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this provision. These regulation revisions are in the public comment process from April 21, 2016 - June 13, 2016. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays and to make the needed system updates to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS).

In December 2014, the CCPO began drafting regulation revisions to 7 AAC 41 specific to provisions for subsidy rates. Informational meetings with Child Care Assistance participating families and providers along with grantees and other partners were held throughout the state during December 2014 and again in December 2015 to gather input. Proposed regulation revisions were submitted to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services early 2016 for posting to solicit public comment and complete the regulation adoption process.

The CCPO will use information from the 2015 Alaska Child Care Market Price Survey Report, the Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska October 2015 Final Report, and true cost of care information pertaining to Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), to inform revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule upon approval from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance.

Additionally, the Child Care Grant Program (CCG) supports other efforts to ensure equal access to quality care. The CCPO through the CCG provides funding to eligible licensed child care providers on a monthly basis to enhance their program's quality. CCG funds may be used for child development education and training. Licensed child care providers may receive anywhere from \$30 - \$50 per child, per month, depending upon their geographical location. In Fiscal Year 2015 the following was reimbursed to programs through the CCG:

- \$14,538 for child development education and training;
- \$21,785.36 for costs related to health and safety;
- \$53,983.71 for supplies, equipment and activities for children; and

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- \$2,789,669.14 for staff, salaries, and wages.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access either based on the current MRS or alternative methodology

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include regular subsidy rate revisions based on the Market Price Survey Report which support equal access.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include language regarding payment subsidy rate changes and to ensure equal access.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.

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- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff and Child Care Assistance Program designees on changes.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Complete necessary reports and research, and secure technical assistance to inform revisions to the *Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule* to ensure subsidy payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access.

- 4/2015 5/2015 Conducted 2015 Market Price Survey. The 2015 Alaska Market Price Survey Report was finalized 1/2016.
- 10/2015 Finalized Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska October 2015 Final Report.
- 10/2015 Obtained "true cost of care" information pertaining to Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS).
- 3/2016 Secure technical assistance from State Systems
 Specialist and convene a series of meetings to strategize steps, research, and resources to assist in this task. Meetings will continue until task is complete.
- 5/2016 Convene a series of workgroup meetings to analyze available reports, research, and resources, and to determine revisions to the *Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule*. Meetings will continue until task is complete.

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 1/2017 - Coordinate with the Office of Children's Services through a Reimbursable Services Agreement for alignment of child care rates to providers caring for children in protective custody.
 Meetings will continue until task is complete.

Projected start date for each activity: 04/01/2015 Projected end date for each activity: 06/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services; State Systems Specialist; Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (state advisory council); System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee; Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS); and other early care and learning stakeholders/partners.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Complete necessary programming enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) to include new subsidy payment rates.

- 10/2016 Submit a work request detailing the needed ICCIS enhancements to the Facility Module, Rate tab.
- 10/2016 Convene a series of design and programming meetings with the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Systems Operations and associated contractor, and the DPA Research Analyst.
 Meetings will continue until task is complete.
- Notify staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, and Work Services staff of date Child Care Assistance Authorizations will need to be reissued.
- 5/2017 6/2017 System testing prior to implementation.

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Projected start date for each activity: 10/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Division of Public Assistance, Systems Operations and associated contractor; Division of Public Assistance Research Analyst; Child Care Assistance Program designees; Office of Children's Services; and Work Services staff.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Begin 3/1/2017 - Draft communication plan for staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers of the revised *Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule*.

- 3/1/2017- Inform staff, CCAP designees, and Work Services staff, and other early care and learning stakeholders/partners of subsidy payment rate changes and information to share with child care providers.
- 4/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the subsidy rate change, how this will affect them, and deadlines for selecting the state's new subsidy payment rates, keeping their current rates, or increasing their rates. This may include a broadcast and a letter.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program designees; Office of Children's Services; and Work Services staff.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule.

- 6/30/2017 Migrate system enhancements to the Integrated Child Care Information System, Facility Module, Rate tab.
- 7/1/2017 Post revised *Child Care Assistance Program Rate Schedule* to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity Child Care Assistance Program designees; Office of Children's Services; Division of Public Assistance Systems Operations, and Work Services staff.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

4.5 Payment Practices and Timeliness of Payments

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that requires States and Territories to describe in the Plan how the State/Territory's payment practices for CCDF child care providers reflect generally accepted payment practices of non-CCDF child care providers in the State/Territory so as to provide stability of funding and encourage more child care providers to participate in the subsidy program. To the extent practicable, the State/Territory must implement enrollment and eligibility policies that support the fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider payments from a child's occasional absences due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances such as illness. (658E(c)(2)(S))

4.5.1 Describe the status of State/Territory's payment practices for CCDF child care providers that reflect generally accepted payment practices of non-CCDF child care providers in the State/Territory

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above by March 1,
2016. Describe using 4.5.2 through 4.5.3 below.
Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory
specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including

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planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

4.5.2 Describe how the payment practices to child care providers who serve CCDF-assisted children reflect generally accepted payment practices of other child care providers in the State/Territory to ensure stability of funding to encourage more child care providers to serve children who receive CCDF assistance. Check all that apply and describe.

		_	
The	Lead	Agenc	٧

Pays prospective	vely prior to the	delivery of service) S
Describe:			

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Pays within no more than 21 days of billing for services. Describe:
Payment processing is completed within 10 - 21 business days of receiving the provider's billing.
☐Supports fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider payments from
a child's occasional absences by paying based on enrollment instead of attendance. Describe including the State/Territory's definition of occasional absences
☐Supports fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider payments from
a child's occasional absences by providing full payment if a child attends at least a certain
percent of authorized time. Specify percent and describe
Specify percent and describe
Supports fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider payments from
a child's occasional absences by providing full payment if a child is absent for a certain
number of days in a month.
Specify the number of absence days allowed and paid for and describe
Care authorized as enrollment is paid for the full amount authorized as long as the child
attends at least one day in the month of care.
Pays on a full-time or part-time basis (rather than smaller increments such as hourly) Describe:
Pay on a full time and part time month or day basis and will also pay for additional hours
beyond a full day time day.
Pays for standard and customary fees that the provider charges private-paying parents
(e.g., registration fees, deposits, supplies, field trips, etc.) Describe:
Registration fees are paid to licensed providers of up to \$50.00 per child, per facility, per
calendar year.
Provides prompt notice to providers regarding any changes to the family's eligibility status

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that may impact payment

Describe:

A family's authorized care can only be reduced with timely adverse action. The provider is notified of changes to the family's authorized care prior to the service month.

Has a timely appeal and resolution process for payment inaccuracies and disputes.

Describe:

If an error is discovered child care providers may contact the child care assistance office responsible for processing their payment for a correction to be made. If the payment amount is in dispute, the provider may request in writing an Administrative Review within 15 days, or a hearing within 30 days of the determination.

A written Administrative Review decision is issued within fifteen days of receiving the request providing the opportunity to request a hearing if the provider is dissatisfied with the decision. The Alaska Department of Administration, Office of Administrative Hearings conducts hearings for the division and issues a final agency action. If a provider is not satisfied with the decision of the hearing authority, they may file a request for judicial review of the decision.

Other.	
Describe:	

For those options not checked above, explain why these options are not generally accepted payment practices in your State/Territory.

Prospective payment has been determined to be cost prohibitive to implement.

Additionally, it creates a potential for provider's to be paid for services not provided creating additional administrative costs to re-coup the payment.

Payment based on enrollment instead of attendance requires regulation revisions. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, is in this process and will be proposing full time or part time enrollment based authorizations with the option of additional attendance days.

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4.5.3 Check and	describe the strategi	es the State/Territory	will use to ensure the
timeliness of pay	yments.		

Policy on length of time for making payments.

Describe length of time:

15 days from the date the request for payment was received.

☑ Track and monitor the payment process

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, conducts monthly reviews of provider billings processed for payment for accuracy and timeliness. The results of these reviews are discussed with grantees and staff completing the payment processing on a quarterly basis and included in the grantee's annual compliance report.

✓ Use of electronic tools (e.g., automated billing, direct deposit, etc.)

Describe:

Child care providers currently have the option to elect direct deposit payments. In 2015, the State of Alaska implemented a new statewide accounting and vendor payment system, Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS). The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, will further explore the availability for child care providers to utilize a payment portal.

Other.

Describe:

4.6 Supply Building Strategies to Meet the Needs of Certain Populations

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that the State/Territory will develop and implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive care during non-traditional hours. (658 E(c)(2)(M))

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4.6.1 Has the State/Territory conducted data analysis of existing and growing supply needs?

Yes.

Describe data sources

The 2015 Market Price Survey asked providers questions regarding their wait lists and the ages of children included; and if they are operating at full capacity and if not the reasons why they are not.

Looking at the distribution across the Child Care Assistance Program rate regions and age groups of children, the highest percentage of children on waitlists were in Anchorage, followed by Fairbanks and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. This observation reflects the need for child care based on population density; in more populated areas, more children were on waitlists. Comparing across the state, the Anchorage region had the highest proportion of children on waitlists in all age groups. Nearly half of infants and toddlers, slightly more than half of preschoolers, and over two-thirds of kindergarteners and school age children on waitlists statewide were from the Anchorage region.

Slightly fewer than half of respondents (49%) statewide stated that they were operating at full capacity per their child care license. Of the reasons provided for not operating at full capacity per child care license, the main reason (44% or 136 respondents) was due to of lack of enrolled children. Five respondents out of those operating at full capacity per child care license further clarified that they were newly opened/licensed. Lack of children was consistently marked as the main reason for each region except for Southwest, where lack of enrolled children and lack of child care staff were equally distributed (50% each) as the reasons for not operating at full capacity.

□No.

If no, how does the State/Territory determine most critical supply needs?

4.6.2 Describe what method(s) is used to increase supply and improve quality for:

a) Infants and toddlers (check all that apply)

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	Grants and contracts (as discussed in 4.1.3)
	Family child care networks
	Start-up funding
	✓ Technical assistance support
	Recruitment of providers
	Tiered payment rates (as discussed in 4.4.1)
	Other.
	Describe
	The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and thread, Alaska's statewide Child
	Care Resource and Referral Network, via a non-competitive grant and two sub-grants,
	partner to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care facilities throughout
	the state. Child Care Connection receives this grant to maintain and operate child care
	services for children, 12 months through 12 years of age, for parents accessing within
	the Gambell Division of Public Assistance office, located in Anchorage. This service is
	provided by TANF funds only.
b) (Children with disabilities (check all that apply)
	Grants and contracts (as discussed in 4.1.3)
	Family child care networks
	Start-up funding
	☑ Technical assistance support
	Recruitment of providers
	Tiered payment rates (as discussed in 4.4.1)
	Other.
	Describe
	Child care providers providing care to a child with a diagnosed disability can receive
	supplemental payments through the Child Care Assistance Program, known as Alaska
	Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!), based on the needs of the child. Alaska IN! is
	applicable to licensed child care homes, group homes, centers, and license exempt
	providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program. The supplemental payment
	is a percentage increment based on the authorized cost of care and the actual cost

c) Children who receive care during non-traditional hours (check all that apply)

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incurred by the provider to provide the additional services specific to the child's need.

Grants and contracts (as discussed in 4.1.3)
Family child care networks
Start-up funding
Technical assistance support
Recruitment of providers
Tiered payment rates (as discussed in 4.4.1)
Other.
Describe
d) Homeless children (check all that apply)
Grants and contracts (as discussed in 4.1.3)
Family child care networks
Start-up funding
☑ Technical assistance support
Recruitment of providers
Tiered payment rates (as discussed in 4.4.1)
Other.
Describe

4.6.3 The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires States to describe the procedures and process it uses, in terms of the investments made to increase access to programs providing high quality child care and development services, to give priority for those investments to children in families in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment and that do not have such high-quality programs. (658E(c)(2)(Q))

Describe the status of State/Territory's process and procedures to give priority for investments to children and families from areas with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment that do not have high-quality programs.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above.

Describe

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), specifically gives priority to

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children and families from areas with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment through the Parent's Achieving Self-Sufficiency Program (PASS I) that do not have access high-quality programs. The PASS I families receive TANF funds and have the highest poverty level and unemployment rate. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has policies and procedures in place to make investments in this population through waiving a co-payment for assistance and exempting them from a waitlist for child care assistance services. Through the CCAP, these children and families have the ability to access to a range of high quality licensed programs statewide. Additionally, CCAP offices statewide are strategically located in high-poverty areas, near Division of Public Assistance offices, or adjacent to community resource agencies.

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's status toward complete implementation for any requirement(s) not fully implemented (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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5 Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings

The CCDBG Act of 2014 makes child care safer by defining minimum health and safety requirements for child care providers. This includes both the standards that must be established and the pre-service/orientation and ongoing minimum training required. States and Territories must also explain why exemptions to any of the licensing standards do not endanger the health and safety of CCDF children in license-exempt care. States and Territories are required to have standards for CCDF providers regarding group size limits and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on the age of children in child care.

Pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections of licensed CCDF providers and annual inspections of license-exempt CCDF providers are now required. The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires States and Territories to establish qualifications and training for licensing inspectors and appropriate inspector-to-provider ratios. It also requires States and Territories to conduct criminal background checks for all child care staff members, including staff members who don't care directly for children but have unsupervised access to children and lists specific disqualifying crimes. States and Territories must certify that all child care providers comply with child abuse reporting requirements of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), mandatory reporting of known and suspected instances of child abuse and neglect).

5.1 Licensing Requirements and Standards

Each State is required to certify it has in effect licensing requirements applicable to all child care services provided within the State (not restricted to providers receiving CCDF), and to provide a detailed description of such requirements and how such requirements are effectively enforced. (658E(c)(2)(I)(i))

5.1.1 The State/Territory certifies that it has licensing requirements applicable to child care services provided within the State.

(658(c)(2)(F)) This requirement did not change under the CCDBG Act of 2014. List the categories of care that your State/Territory licenses and provide your definition of each licensed

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category of care

List the categories of care that your State/Territory licenses and provide your definition of each licensed category of care

Licensed Child Care Home - defined as one individual who provides child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child, as the sole caregiver, in a private residence. A licensed child care home may provide care for no more than eight children under age 13, including the caregiver's own children under age 12 years; and no more than three children in care may be under 30 months of age, of which no more than two children in care may be nonambulatory.

Licensed Child Care Group Home - defined as two or more individuals who provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child, in a private residence other than the child's residence. A licensed group home has no more than t12 children total in care under age 13, and no more than five children in care may be under 30 moths, of which no more than four children in care may be non-ambulatory.

Licensed Child Care Center - defined as a provider licensed to provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child, in a non-residential setting. Licensed Child Care Centers have 13 or more children in care, and must meet the specific child to caregiver ratios and maximum group size, set forth in 7AAC 57.505(d) Child to Caregiver Ratios.

5.1.2 Does your State/Territory exempt any child care providers from its licensing requirements?



Describe which types of providers that can receive CCDF are exempt from licensing and how such exemptions do not endanger children who receive CCDF services from license-exempt providers

Approved Non Relative Providers - defined as one individual who is not licensed and provides child care services, as the sole caregiver, in their private residence outside the child's own home. An Approved Non Relative Provider may provide care for no more than four children who are not related to them under age 13, including the provider's own children under age twelve years. An Approved Non Relative Provider may operate for up

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to 12 months and receive CCDF, at which time the provider must become licensed to continue to receive CCDF. Approved Non Relative Providers are required obtain a criminal history check and to follow health and safety standards set forth by regulations and currently go through a self-certification process during their initial application process.

Approved Relative Providers - defined as one individual who is not licensed and provides child care services outside of the child's own home, as the sole caregiver, in their private residence to children who are all related to the provider. An Approved Relative Provider may provide care for no more than five children under age 13, including the provider's own children under age 12 years. Approved Relative Providers are exempt from licensure under 7 AAC 57.015(8), and may receive CCDF. Approved Relative Providers are required to obtain a criminal history check and follow health and safety standards set forth by regulations and currently go through a self-certification process during their initial application process and every two years after during their renewal application process.

Approved In-home Providers - defined as an in-home child care provider, hired by the family, to provide care in the family's home for only the children of the family who live in the home. Approved In-home Providers are exempt from licensure under 7AAC 57.015(9). An Approved In-home provider may provide care for all the family's children residing in the family home. An Approved In-home provider's CCDF eligibility is tied to the family's Child Care Assistance eligibility and participation. Approved In-home Providers are required to obtain a criminal history check and follow health and safety standards set forth by regulations and currently go through a self-certification process during each application process.

100	NIA
	INO.

5.1.3 Describe the status of the State/Territory's development and implementation of child care standards for providers receiving CCDF that address appropriate ratios between the number of children and the number of providers and group size, in terms of the age of the children for each type of setting. (658E(c)(2)(H))

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Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above. Describe using 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 below.

Not implemented. If not implemented, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

5.1.4 Describe how the State/Territory child care standards for providers receiving CCDF address appropriate ratios between the number of children and the number of providers and group size, in terms of the age of the children for each type of setting. (658E(c)(2)(H))

a) Licensed Center-Based Care

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1. Infant

- State/Territory age definition:

State of Alaska: Infant means a child from birth to 19 months of age.

Municipality of Anchorage: Infant means a child from 6 weeks through 11 months, or older if not walking independently.

- Ratio:

State of Alaska: 5 children to 1 caregiver (5:1).

Municipality of Anchorage: 4 children to 1 caregiver (4:1).

- Group Size:

State of Alaska: Maximum Group size is 10 children to 2 caregivers (10:2).

Municipality of Anchorage: Maximum group size is 8 children to 2 caregivers (8:2).

2. Toddler

- State/Territory age definition:

State of Alaska: Toddler means a child age 19 months to age 36 months.

Municipality Anchorage: Toddler means a child from 12 months through 35 months.

- Ratio:

State of Alaska: 6 children to 1 caregiver (6:1).

Municipality of Anchorage:

- For children 12 months through 18 months, 5 children to 1 caregiver **(5:1).**
- For children 19 months through 35 months, 6 children to 1 caregiver **(6:1).**
- Group Size:

State of Alaska: Maximum Group size is 12 Children to 2 Caregivers (12:2).

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Municipality of Anchorage:

- For children 12 months through 18 months, maximum group size is 10 children to 2 caregivers (**10:2**).
- For children 19 months through 35 months, maximum group size is 12 children to 2 caregivers (12:2).

3. Preschool:

- State/Territory age definition:

State of Alaska: Preschooler means a child age three or four.

Municipality of Anchorage: Preschoolers means a child from 36 months through 5 years, if not in school.

- Ratio:

State of Alaska: 10 children to 1 caregiver (10:1).

Municipality of Anchorage: 10 children to 1 caregiver (10:1).

- Group Size:

State of Alaska: Maximum Group size is 20 children to 2 caregivers (20:2).

Municipality of Anchorage: Maximum group size is 20 children to 2 caregivers (20:2).

4. School-Age

- State/Territory age definition:

State of Alaska:

- Kindergartner means a child age five or six.
- School age means a child age seven through age 18.

Municipality of Anchorage: School age means a child 5 years through 17 years, if in school.

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- Ratio:

State of Alaska:

- Kindergartner: 14 Children to 1 Caregiver (14:1).
- School age: 18 Children to 1 Caregiver (18:1).

Municipality of Anchorage:

- For children 5 years through 12 years, 10 children to 1 caregiver (10:1).
- For children 13 years through 17 years, 20 children to 1 caregiver (20:1).
- Group Size:

State of Alaska:

- Kindergartner: Maximum Group size is 28 Children to 2 Caregivers (28:2).
- School Age: Maximum Group size is 36 Children to 2 Caregivers (36:2).

Municipality of Anchorage:

- For children 5 years through 12 years, maximum group size is 20 children to 2 caregivers (20:2).
- For children 13 years through 17 years, maximum group size is 40 children to 2 caregivers **(40:2).**
- 5. If any of the responses above are different for exempt child care centers, describe:

N/A.

6. Describe, if applicable, ratios and group sizes for centers with mixed age groups. Regulation Child Care Facilities Licensing 7 AAC 57.505(e) requires a child care center may maintain a child-to-caregiver ratio consistent with the age of the majority of the children, when kindergartners and school-age children are in a mixed age group. When infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are in a mixed age group, the child-to-caregiver ratio for the youngest child applies.

- b) Licensed Group Child Care Homes:
 - 1. Infant
 - State/Territory age definition:

- Ratio:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.505 (b) requires:a child care group home must have at least two caregivers and may provide care for no more than a total of 12 children under age 13 years. Of the total children in care, no more than five may be under the age of 30 months, and no more than four may be nonambulatory.

- Group Size:

Maximum Group Size 12 children to 2 caregivers (12:2).

2. Toddler

- State/Territory age definition:

Toddler means a child age 19 months to age 36 months. The Municipality of Anchorage does not have Licensed Group Homes.

- Ratio:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.505 (b) requires: a child care group home must have at least two caregivers and may provide care for no more than a total of 12 children under age 13 years. Of the total children in care, no more than five may be under the age of 30 months, and no more than four may be nonambulatory.

- Group Size:

Maximum Group Size 12 children to 2 caregivers (12:2).

3. Preschool:

- State/Territory age definition:

Peschooler means a child age three or four. The Municipality of Anchorage does not have Licensed Group Homes.

- Ratio:

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Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.505 (b) requires:a child care group home must have at least two caregivers and may provide care for no more than a total of 12 children under age 13 years. Of the total children in care, no more than five may be under the age of 30 months, and no more than four may be nonambulatory.

- Group Size:

Maximum Group Size 12 children to 2 caregivers (12:2).

- 4. School-Age
 - State/Territory age definition:

School age means age seven through age 18. The Municipality of Anchorage does not have Licensed Group Homes.

- Ratio:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.505 (b) requires: a child care group home must have at least two caregivers and may provide care for no more than a total of 12 children under age 13 years. Of the total children in care, no more than five may be under the age of 30 months, and no more than four may be non-ambulatory.

- Group Size:

Maximum Group Size is 12 children to 2 Caregivers (12:2).

5. Describe the maximum number of children that are allowed in the home at any one time, if the State/Territory requires related children to be included in the child-to-provider ratio or group size, or the limits on infants and toddlers or additional school-age children that are allowed for part of the day

Maximum Group Size is 12 children, including the caregivers own children under the age of 12 years to 2 caregivers (12:2).

6. If any of the responses above are different for exempt group child care homes, describe

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The State of Alaka does not have exempt group child care homes.

N/A. State/Territory does not have group child care homes.

c) Licensed Family Child Care:

1. Describe the ratios, group size, the threshold for when licensing is required, maximum number of children that are allowed in the home at any one time, if the State/Territory requires related children to be included in the Child-to-Provider ratio or group size, or the limits on infants and toddlers or additional school-age children that are allowed for part of the day.

Describe the ratios:

State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage: 8 children to 1 caregiver (8:1).

Describe the group size:

State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage: 8 children to 1 caregiver (8:1).

Describe the threshold for when licensing is required:

Five or more children in care. Under Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.015 (7) Exemptions from licensure requirements: allows a facility that regularly provides care to four or fewer children who are not relatives of the caregiver; "regularly provides care" means that a child is enrolled for regular care, regardless of whether that child receives full-time or part-time care."

Describe the maximum number of children that are allowed in the home at any one time:

State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage: 8 children.

Describe if the State/Territory requires related children to be included in the Child-to-Provider ratio or group size:

State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage: 8 children to 1 caregiver (8:1).

Describe the limits on infants and toddlers or additional school-age children that are allowed for part of the day:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.505(a) requires: a child care home must have at least one caregiver, and may provide care for no more than a total of eight children under age 13 years, including the caregiver's children under age 12 years. Of the total children in care, no more than three children may be under the age of 30 months. Of the total children in care, including children under the age of 30 months, no more than two may be nonambulatory.

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2. If any of the responses above are different for exempt family child care home providers, describe

Approved Non Relative Providers and Approved Relative Providers may provide care for no more than five children under age thirteen, including the provider's own children under age 12 years. No more than two of the children may be under the age of 30 months.

Approved In-home Providers are hired by the family to provide care in the family's home for all the children of the family residing in the home.

d) Any other eligible CCDF provider categories:

Describe the ratios, group size, the threshold for when licensing is required, maximum number of children that are allowed in the home at any one time, if the State/Territory requires related children to be included in the Child-to-Provider ratio or group size, or the limits on infants and toddlers or additional school-age children that are allowed for part of the day.

Describe the ratios:

Approved Non Relative Providers and Approved Relative Providers: 5 children to 1 caregiver (5:1)

Describe group size:

Approved Non Relative Providers and Approved Relative Providers may provide care for no more than five children under age thirteen, including the provider's own children under age 12 years. No more than two of the children may be under the age of 30 months.

Approved In-home Providers may care for all the children of the family residing in the family's home.

Describe the threshold for when licensing is required:

An Approved Non Relative Provider may operate for up to twelve months, prior to becoming licensed, as long as there are no more than a total of five children in care, with no more than four who are unrelated.

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Approved Relative Providers and Approved In-home Providers are exempt from licensure.

Describe maximum number of children that are allowed in the home at any one time: Approved Non Relative Providers and Approved Relative Providers may provide care for no more than five children under age 13, including the provider's own children under age 12 years. No more than two of the children may be under the age of 30 months.

Describe if the State/Territory requires related children to be included in the Child-to-Provider ratio or group size:

Yes - Approved Relative Providers may provide care for no more than five children under age 13, including the provider's own children under age 12 years. No more than two children may be under the age of 30 months.

Describe the limits on infants and toddlers or additional school-age children that are allowed for part of the day:

Approved Non Relative Providers and Approved Relative Providers may have no more than two children in care, including their own children, who are under the age of 30 months.

5.1.5 Describe how the State/Territory child care standards address required qualifications for providers appropriate to each type of setting, including the minimum age allowed, minimum education level, any specific content required related to the age of children. (658E(c)(2)(H))

- a) Licensed Center-Based Care:
 - 1. Infant lead teacher

18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant teacher qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education

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required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

2. Toddler lead teacher

18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant teacher qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

3. Preschool lead teacher

18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant teacher qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

4. School-Age lead teacher

18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant teacher qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

5. Director qualifications:

The administrator of a child care center must be at least 21 years of age. And must have an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility; and have management and supervisory skills necessary to handle finances, plan and evaluate programs, and select and supervise personnel, including delegation of responsibility and motivation of staff.

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The administrator of a child care center must have at least 12 semester hours of college credit in early childhood development, child development, child psychology, or the equivalent, or must hold either a current child development associate (CDA) credential from the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition or a Montessori certificate issued by a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Commission for Teacher Education. College credit in management may substitute for three of the 12 required hours. The administrator of a child care center for school-age children may substitute relevant college courses, except that at least three semester hours of college credit in child development are required.

A child care center shall designate at least one full-time onsite child care associate for each 30 children who are present at the child care center. A child care associate must meet the age requirements, qualifications, and college credit, CDA or Montessori credential, and continuing education requirements for an administrator.

b) Licensed Group Child Care Homes:

1. Infant lead teacher

There is no specific staff type for an Infant lead teacher. Child Care Group Homes have an Administrator and at least one additional caregiver.

Administrator: Must be at least 21 years of age and must have: an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility. Must also meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

Caregiver: 18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, and must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

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2. Toddler lead teacher

There is no specific staff type for a Toddler lead teacher. Child Care Group Homes have an Administrator and at least one additional caregiver.

Administrator: Must be at least 21 years of age and must have: an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility. Must also meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

Caregiver: 18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility and assistant teacher qualifications: 18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

3. Preschool lead teacher

There is no specific staff type for a Preschool lead teacher. Child Care Group Homes have an Administrator and at least one additional caregiver.

Administrator: The administrator of a group child care home must be at least 21 years of age and must have: an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility. Must also meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

Caregiver: 18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

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and assistant qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

4. School-Age lead teacher

There is no specific staff type for a School-Age lead teacher. Chld Care Group Homes have an Administrator and at least one additional caregiver.

Administrator: Must be at least 21 years of age and must have: an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility. Must also meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

Caregiver: 18 years old minimum age allowed, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

and assistant qualifications:

18 years old minimum age allowed to be counted in ratio, no minimum education required, must meet 7 AAC 57.310 Qualifications and responsibilities of employees and other individuals in a child care facility.

N/A. State/Territory does not have group child care homes.

c) Licensed Family Child Care home provider qualifications

The administrator of a Child Care Home must be at least 18 years of age and must have an understanding of the development of children; have the ability to care for children; and have the skills to work with children, family members, department staff, community agencies, and, if applicable, staff of the child care facility.

d) Other eligible providers qualifications:

All Approved Provider Types (Approved Non Relative Provider, Approved Relative Provider, and Approved In-home Provider) must be at least 18 years of age.

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5.1.6 The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a new provision specifying that States and Territories must 1) establish health and safety requirements for providers serving children receiving CCDF assistance relating to matters included in the topics listed below, and 2) have pre-service or orientation training requirements, appropriate to the provider setting, that address these health and safety topics.

(658E(c)(2)(I)(i)) This requirement is applicable to all child care providers receiving CCDF regardless of licensing status (licensed or license-exempt). The only exception to this requirement is for providers who are caring for their own relatives, as States have the option of exempting relatives from some or all CCDF health and safety requirements. When establishing these requirements, States are encouraged to consider the age of children and type of child care setting to ensure that they are appropriate to the health and safety needs of the children from birth through age 12 and the providers who care for them.

- a) The State certifies that it has health and safety requirements for individuals (providers) receiving CCDF in the following areas:
 - Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization)
 - Prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices
 - Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent
 - Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions
 - Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic
 - Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
 - Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility), within the meaning of those terms under section 602(a) (1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(a)(1))
 - Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants
 - Precautions in transporting children (if applicable)
 - First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Yes. The State/Territory certifies that it has health and safety requirements for CCD
providers in these areas as of March 1, 2016.

Provide a citation and a link if available

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No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 03/31/2017

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The following requirements have been met for all licensed provider types (Centers, Group Homes, and Home) under the State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office (CCPO) and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA):

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
- Prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices;
- Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent:
- Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions:
- Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma;
- Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility), within the meaning of those terms under section 602(a) (1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(a)(1));
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants; and
- Precautions in transporting children (if applicable).

Providers licensed by the CCPO cand the MOA urrently are only required to have one caregiver with First Aid and CPR certifications on-site in each classroom.

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Providers licensed by the CCPO, these requirements have been established under Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations: 7 AAC 57.350 Orientation and Training, pertaining to providers licensed by the State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office is located on the Child Care Program Office website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/regs.aspx.

Providers licensed by the MOA must meet or exceed State of Alaska requirements. Anchorage Municipal Code 16.55.290 - 16.450 lists the health and safety as well as training requirements is located on the MOA Child Care Licensing website at: http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/PHIP/Documents/FINALhomeandcentercode passed9804.pdf.

The following requirements are met for license-exempt providers who are relative and non-relative providers only (this does not apply to care being provided in the child's own home by an in-home caregiver):

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization)
- Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent
- Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions
- Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic
- Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility), within the meaning of those terms under section 602(a) (1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(a)(1))
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants
- Precautions in transporting children (if applicable)
- First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification

Providers who are license-exempt but are regulated under Child Care Assistance Program regulations, meet the above listed requirements under 7 AAC 41.215 General health and safety requirements; 7 AAC 41.220 Environmental health and safety requirements; 7 AAC 41.225 Diapering; 7 AC 41.230 First aid Kit and procedures; Certifications for first aid and CPR; and 7 AAC 41.240 Animals. The Child

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Care Assistance Program regulations 7 AAC 41 are located on the CCPO website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/regs.aspx.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization)

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.

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Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating

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agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The

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Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

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Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Facilities Licensing and Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) to include this health and safety requirement for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Draft proposed Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations. This will occur through a series of meetings.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to draft AMC to include this provision.
- Convene public comment period for Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and MOA Assembly meeting.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Adoption of revised AMC with Assembly approval.

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- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and Anchorage Municipal Code, revise the Child Care Licensing Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and coordinate to make sure any applicable manual the MOA has is also updated. Also include input from the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 03/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Licensing Regulations, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC), and Child Care Licensing Policies and Procedures Manual with this provision for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Post revised Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations to the Child Care Program Office website and new AMC to Municipality of Anchorage website.
- Train staff, Child Care Licensing staff (CCPO and MOA), Child Care Assistance Program designees, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers. This
 may include statewide Informational meetings, posting to the
 CCPO and MOA Child Care Licensing websites, and emailed
 broadcasts to notify all licensed of upcoming changes by
 3/31/2017 and possibly several months prior.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016

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Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Desigees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.

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- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

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Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff

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Development and Training Team.

 Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and

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contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

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In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

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Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility), within the meaning of those terms under section 602(a) (1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(a)(1))

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.

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- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance

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Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program

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Integrity Quality Assessment.

- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

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Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.

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- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Precautions in transporting children (if applicable)

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the

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Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include this health and safety requirement to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program Designees, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

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Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

b) The State/Territory certifies that it has pre-service (prior to initial service) or orientation (period from when service started) and ongoing training requirements, appropriate to the provider setting that address each of the requirements relating to the topic areas listed above. ACF expects these trainings will be part of a broader systematic approach and

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progression of professional development (as described in Section 6) within a State/Territory that will result in opportunities for child care providers to accumulate knowledge, competencies and credits toward eventual completion of a professional certification or higher education. The law does not specify a specific number of training or education hours but States and Territories are encouraged to consult with *Caring for our Children Basics* for best practices and recommended time needed to address these training requirements.

Yes. The State/Territory certifies that it has pre-service or orientation and ongoing training requirements appropriate to the provider setting that address each of the requirements relating to the topics listed above as of March 1, 2016.

Describe, including at a minimum 1) how the state/territory defines preservice or orientation period, 2) the minimum number of annual preservice or orientation hours required to meet these health, and safety requirements, and 3) ongoing training or education hours required to meet these health and safety requirements

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 09/30/2017

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

For licensed providers regulated by the State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office (CCPO):

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.350. Orientation and training. Requires a child care facility with one or more employees to provide an orientation to each caregiver that relates to the caregiver's duties and responsibilities that includes: the facility's policies and procedures; satisfying the individual needs of children; emergency procedures and health and safety measures; and the applicable health and safety requirements of the child care licensing regulations.

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- The orientation required must begin at the time of employment and must be completed within eight weeks.
- Training hours required in this section are clock hours and may include any training relevant to the caregiver's responsibilities, including health and safety, child growth and development, planning learning activities, guidance and discipline techniques, linkages with community services, communication and relations with families, and detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect. Training must be documented. Documentation must include the date, subject, method of training, duration, and the name of the individual who conducted the training.
- A child care facility shall ensure that each caregiver who provides care for infants and toddlers receives at least one hour of training during the first year of employment, and at least one hour every two years thereafter. Training must include: recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome; preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and identifying infant and toddler developmental levels and needs.
- A child care facility shall have on duty at all times at least one caregiver with valid certification for first aid and age-appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- A child care center and child care group home shall ensure that each caregiver receives at least 20 hours of training each year. The 20 hours must be in addition to the required orientation and training in first aid and CPR.
- A caregiver in a child care home shall complete at least 12 hours of training annually. The 12 hours must be in addition to the required orientation and the training in first aid and CPR.
- A part-time caregiver shall complete at least 10 hours of training annually, if in a child care center or child care group home, and at least six hours of training if in a child care home. These hours must be in addition to the required orientation and the training in first aid and CPR. A caregiver may count orientation and pre-service training hours required that exceed six hours toward caregiver training hours.

Providers licensed by the CCPO, these requirements have been established under Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations: 7 AAC 57.350 Orientation and Training, pertaining to providers licensed by the State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office is located on the Child Care Program Office website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/regs.aspx.

For licensed providers under the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA): Anchorage Municipal Code 16.55.290 Orientation and training.

- A child care facility with one or more staff shall provide an orientation to

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- each caregiver. The orientation shall begin at the time of employment or volunteer service, be a minimum of four hours, and be completed within the succeeding four weeks.
- Training hours are clock hours and may include any training relevant to the caregiver's job responsibilities.
- A child care center shall ensure each caregiver, except for a child development leader, associate administrator, and an administrator, receives a minimum of 20 hours of training a year. The 20 hours shall be in addition to the required orientation and training in CPR and first aid.
- A caregiver in a child care home if licensed for six or fewer children shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of training annually. If licensed for seven or eight children, a minimum of 20 hours of training annually is required. These training hours are in addition to the required orientation and training in CPR and first aid.
- A caregiver in a child care home may count orientation and preservice training hours required under subsection 16.55.100A. exceeding six hours toward caregiver training hours required under subsections G. and H.

Providers licensed by the MOA must meet or exceed State of Alaska requirements. Anchorage Municipal Code 16.55.290 - 16.450 lists the health and safety as well as training requirements is located on the MOA Child Care Licensing website at: http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/PHIP/Documents/FINALhomeandcentercode passed9804.pdf.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented pre-service (prior to initial service) or orientation (period from when service started) appropriate to the provider setting that address each of the requirements relating to the required topic areas

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include pre-service or orientation training requirements for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of

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Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.

- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include preservice or orientation training requirements for Approved Relative Providers and Inhome caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance

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Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include preservice or orientation training requirements to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral
 Network, thread, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff
 Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this health and safety requirement into the in-person and on-line Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment; and Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.

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- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to notify providers of this change.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Facilities Licensing and Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) to include preservice or orientation training (including first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications) for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Draft proposed Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations. This will occur through a series of meetings.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to draft AMC to include this provision.
- Convene public comment period for Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and MOA Assembly meeting.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Adoption of revised AMC with Assembly approval.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

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Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and Anchorage Municipal Code, revise the Child Care Licensing Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include preservice or orientation training (to includefirst aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications) for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility. Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.

- Solicit input and review by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and coordinate to make sure any applicable manual the MOA has is also updated. Also include input from the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 03/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Licensing Regulations, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC), and Child Care Licensing Policies and Procedures Manual include preservice or orientation training (including first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications) for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Post revised Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations to the Child Care Program Office website and new AMC to Municipality of Anchorage website.
- Train staff, Child Care Licensing staff (CCPO and MOA), Child Care Assistance Program designees, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers. This
 may include statewide Informational meetings, posting to the
 CCPO and MOA Child Care Licensing websites, and emailed
 broadcasts to notify all licensed of upcoming changes by
 3/31/2017 and possibly several months prior.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating

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agencies, etc.)

All licensed caregivers and licensed-exempt providers will come into compliance with preservice or orientation training requirements (including first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications starting 3/31/2017) by September 30, 2017.

- Coordinate with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, to offer pre-service trainings and provide referrals for providers to obtain training.
- Providers will be supported with resources and technical assistance to make sure they come into compliance with the required preservice or orientation requirements.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented ongoing training requirements appropriate to the provider setting that address each of the requirements relating to the required topic areas

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.

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- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2014
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include this health and safety requirement for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance
 team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity
 Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance

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Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, include ongoing training requirements to the Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation for Approved Relative Providers and In-home caregivers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral
 Network, thread, and the Division of Public Assistance Staff
 Development and Training Team.
- Develop and implement this requirement into the in-person and online Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 07/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Staff Development and Training Team; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program Regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Child Care Assistance Program designees, TANF Work

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Services staff, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to notify providers of this change.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Facilities Licensing and Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) to include ongoing training requirements for first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Draft proposed Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations. This will occur through a series of meetings.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) to draft AMC to include this provision.
- Convene public comment period for Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and MOA Assembly meeting.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Adoption of revised AMC with Assembly approval.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

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Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; and Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations and Anchorage Municipal Code, revise the Child Care Licensing Program Policies and Procedures Manual to include ongoing training requirements for first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and coordinate to make sure any applicable manual the MOA has is also updated. Also include input from the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team, and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 03/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Licensing Regulations, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC), and Child Care Licensing Policies and Procedures Manual to include ongoing training requirements for first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications for all caregivers in a licensed child care facility.

- Post revised Child Care Facilities Licensing regulations to the Child Care Program Office website and new AMC to Municipality of Anchorage website.
- Train staff, Child Care Licensing staff (CCPO and MOA), Child Care Assistance Program designees, Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance, and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.
- Communication plan to share this change with families.
- Communication plan to implement this change with providers. This
 may include statewide Informational meetings, posting to the
 CCPO and MOA Child Care Licensing websites, and emailed
 broadcasts to notify all licensed of upcoming changes by
 3/31/2017 and possibly several months prior.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 03/31/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

All licensed caregivers and licensed-exempt providers will come into compliance with all ongoing training requirements by September 30, 2017.

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- Coordinate with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, to offer ongoing training and provide referrals for providers to obtain training.
- Providers will be supported with resources and technical assistance to make sure they come into compliance with the required ongoing training requirements.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance and contracted Work Services staff; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

5.1.7 Does the State/Territory have health and safety requirements for any of the following optional areas?

Nutrition (including age appropriate feeding).

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7 AAC 57.560. Nutrition.** A child care facility shall ensure that snacks and meals meet the child care food program requirements of 7 C.F.R. 226.20. In a child care center, menus, including snacks, must be planned in advance, be posted in an area open to visitors, and reflect actual food served. In a child care facility, food for a child's meals and snacks may be provided by the parent.

This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

A child care facility providing care for infants shall observe the following requirements for

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bottle feedings: bottle feedings may be prepared by the parent or the child care facility; if the facility prepares the bottle feedings, the facility shall consult with the parent to ensure consistency with the bottle feedings given at home; and an infant must be fed on demand.

A child on bottle feedings must either be held or fed sitting up or, if unable to sit up, always be held by a caregiver during the feeding; and may not be permitted to hold or carry its bottle at times other than the feeding. Bottles may not be propped for a child.

A child care facility shall obtain information concerning any food allergies or special dietary needs of each child and shall plan that child's meals accordingly.

Except for medical reasons, a child care facility may not deny a meal or snack to a child, force-feed a child, or otherwise coerce a child to eat against the child's will for any reason. Mere encouragement to eat without any element of compulsion is not prohibited.

Access to physical activity.

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7AAC 57.520(a)(2)(B). Program:** A child care facility must provide opportunities for individual self-expression and imaginative play, and at least 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity for every three hours the facility is open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and daily supervised outdoor activity when weather and the individual child's tolerance permit.

This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

Screen time.

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7AAC 57.520(a)(3) Program:** A child care facility shall provide structure and daily activities designed to promote a child's individual physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development. A child care facility is required to have a schedule and daily plan of activities for each age group; the schedule and plan must provide a balance of quiet and active activities, and group and individual activities,

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and must include time for meals, snacks, sleep, toileting according to individual needs, and indoor and outdoor play.

This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

A child care center shall provide the schedule and plan in writing. In a child care group home or home, the schedule and plan need not be written, except that a typical daily schedule and plan must be presented with the application for a license.

A child care facility must limit television, movie viewing, and computer and video game use to one and one-half hours in a 24-hour period, except for special occasions; the facility shall ensure that these activities are limited to programs and games specifically designed for the interest and benefit of the child; and limit computer learning activities to two hours a day.

Caring for children with special needs.

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7AAC 57.400(c) Admission and planning for care: A child care facility at or before the admission of a child who is identified as having special needs shall collaborate with the child's parent in developing and implementing a plan of care for the child. The plan of care must be approved by the parent and the caregiver responsible for the care of the child and must be signed and dated by the parent, the caregiver, the facility coordinator for special needs children, if any, and the administrator, and must be based on the following information, to the extent that the parent consents, in writing, to disclose the information: results of medical and developmental examinations; assessments of the child's cognitive functioning or current overall functioning; evaluations of the family's needs, concerns, and priorities; the child's individualized family service plan (IFSP) developed under 4 AAC 52.142 or individualized education program (IEP) developed under 4 AAC 52.140, if any; or any other evaluations as needed. The plan of care must: address any specific services the child care facility will provide in functional outcome objectives, and the designated responsibility for provision and financing; list any additional services, including educational or therapeutic services, the child is receiving from other service providers, and must identify the providers of those services; and may contain permission from the parent for the child care facility to

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contact providers of additional services and the child's IFSP coordinator, if any.

A child care facility shall review information provided about a child identified as having special needs in order to determine whether the facility can satisfy the child's needs. If, after reviewing that information and the application, the facility determines it can satisfy the child's needs, the facility may admit the child. If the facility has reason to believe that, even with reasonable accommodation, the facility cannot meet the child's needs, the facility may deny admission to the child.

This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.220(b)(4)(A). Child care facility operation and management. The governing body or owner of a child care facility shall, either directly or by delegation to the administrator must remove an employee or other caregiver from contact with children when the administrator has reason to believe that the employee or other caregiver has abused a child or furnished a child with alcohol, tobacco, or a controlled substance.

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.315(c). Child protection and criminal history check requirements: A child care facility shall ensure that individuals in the facility do not abuse or neglect a child in its care or engage in an exploitive or sexual act with a child in its care.

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7 AAC 57.350 (c). Orientation and training**. Requires a child care facility with one or more employees to provide an orientation to each caregiver that relates to the caregiver's duties and responsibilities that includes: the facility's policies and procedures; satisfying the individual needs of children; emergency procedures and health and safety measures; and the applicable health and safety requirements of the child care licensing regulations.

Annual required training hours may include any training relevant to the caregiver's responsibilities, including: health and safety; child growth and development; planning

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learning activities; guidance and discipline techniques; linkages with community services; communication and relations with families; and detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect.

All of the above applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

Other subject areas determined by the State/Territory to be necessary to promote child development or to protect children's health and safety.

Describe:

Licensing, Certification, and Approvals regulation **7 AAC 10.1000 - 7 AAC 10.1095 Environmental Health and Safety**: is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by establishing environmental health and safety standards for child care providers. There are also additional health and safety requirements in Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7 AAC 57**.

This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program.

5.1.8 States and Territories have the option to exempt relatives (as defined in CCDF regulations as grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings if living in a separate residence, aunts, and uncles, 98.41(A)(ii)(A)) from these CCDF health and safety requirements.

Does the State/Territory exempt relatives from the requirement to receive pre-service or orientation health and safety training on any or all of the listed topics?

Yes, all relatives are exempt from all health and safety training requirements.

If the State/Territory exempts all relatives from the CCDF health and safety training requirements, describe how the State ensures the health and safety of children in relative care.

Approved Relative Providers must obtain age appropriate CPR and first aid training within six months of becoming approved for program participation. Regulation revisions in process will remove the exemption and require Approved Relative providers to obtain all the health and safety training.

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Yes, some relatives are exempt from health and safety training requirements.
If the State/Territory exempts some relatives from the CCDF health and safety training
requirements, describe which relatives are exempt from which requirements (all or some)
and include how the State/Territory ensures the health and safety of children in relative
care.
□ No, relatives are not exempt from CCDF health and safety training requirements.

5.2 Monitoring and Enforcement Policies and Practices

5.2.1 The State/Territory certifies that the State/Territory shall have in effect policies and practices to ensure that providers for children receiving assistance and their facilities comply with applicable State or local licensing and health and safety requirements. (658E(c)(2)(J))

Yes.

The State/Territory certifies that it has policies and practices to ensure compliance with applicable licensing and health and safety requirements for providers receiving CCDF and their facilities as of March 1, 2016. List the policy citation

Child Care Assistance Program Policy and Procedure Manual, sections: 210 Prohibited Offenses; 215 Provider Responsibilities; and 220 Health and Safety Requirements.

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented,

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substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

5.2.2 The CCDBG Act of 2014 added the following provisions for enforcement of licensing which must be in effect no later than November 19, 2016 for all providers who serve children receiving CCDF (with the option to exempt relatives). While the law does not specify strategies to meet these requirements, States and Territories could consider implementing a differential monitoring approach as long as the full complement of licensing and CCDF health and safety standards was representative and the frequency was at least annually.

a) **Licensing Inspectors** - It will have policies and practices that ensure that individuals who are hired as licensing inspectors in the State/Territory are qualified to inspect those child care providers and facilities and have received training in related health and safety requirements, and are trained in all aspects of the State's licensure requirements. (658E(c)(2)(K)(i)(I))

Yes.

The State/Territory certifies that as of March 1, 2016 it has policies and practices that ensure that individuals who are hired as licensing inspectors in the State/Territory are qualified to inspect those child care providers and facilities and have received training in related health and safety requirements, and are trained in all aspects of the State's licensure requirements. List the policy citation and describe the qualifications, including

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at a minimum how inspector qualifications address training related to the language and cultural diversity of the providers, and how qualifications address being appropriate to the age of children in care and type of provider setting:

Licensing Specialists under the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) meet the job qualifications for their position classification (per the State of Alaska position description) of a Community Care Licensing Specialist. Licensing Specialists under the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) meet the job qualifications for their position classification (per the MOA Department of Health and Human Services position description). All Licensing Specialists are trained by their Supervisors in all aspects of their licensing positions for their first year of employment, and continue to receive additional training throughout their time employed by the CCPO or MOA. All CCPO Licensing staff have training in Diversity in the Workplace, Service of Excellence - customer service training, and Crisis Intervention training.

The majority of the Licensing staff has also taken Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) National Certified Investigator/Inspector (NCIT) Training, and some have also completed some of the National Association for Regulatory Administration licensing training modules.

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than November 19, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than November 19, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

b) **Inspections for Licensed CCDF Providers** - It will require licensing inspectors to perform inspections, with not less than one prelicensure inspection, for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards, of each such child care provider and facility in the State/Territory. It will require licensing inspectors to perform not less than annually, one unannounced inspection of licensed CCDF providers for compliance with all child care licensing standards, which shall include an inspection for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards (inspectors may inspect for compliance with all 3 standards at the same time. (658E(c)(2)(K)(i)(II))

Yes.

The State/Territory certifies that as of March 1, 2016 it has policies and practices regarding inspections for licensed CCDF providers. List the policy citation and describe the inspection requirements including the frequency of announced and unannounced visits

Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Licensing Specialists currently conduct pre-licensure inspections on all licensed child care facility types prior to issuing a Provisional or Biennial License. Child care licensing also conduct at least two unannounced inspections annually. This applies to Licensed Centers and Homes (the MOA does not have Group Homes). Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program. MOA Licensing inspection policies are found under the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 16.55.010-.500 Child Care and Educational Facilities - Centers and Homes:

- AMC 16.55.0707 Timeframes or the department. (2) Within 90 days after the receipt of a completed initial application with the required attachments, the licensing representative shall review the application and plan of operation, confer with the applicant, inspect the facility for which the application is made, and complete a compliance evaluation. At the request of the applicant, and at the discretion of the department, a time extension may be granted without a withdrawal or denial of the application. (3) For a license renewal, the licensing representative shall inspect the facility at various times throughout the licensing year, investigate complaints, review the application, plan of operation, inspection reports, and other evidence of

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- compliance, and recommend licensing action no later than ten days before expiration of the license.
- AMC 16.55.120 Monitoring, investigation, search warrants. B. A licensing representative shall monitor facilities through announced and unannounced on-site inspections throughout each year for compliance with this chapter and shall investigate allegations of noncompliance with this chapter.

State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office (CCPO) Licensing Specialists currently conduct pre-licensure inspections on all licensed child care facility types prior to issuing a Provisional or Biennial License. Child care licensing also conducts at least one announced and one unannounced inspection annually. This applies to Licensed Centers, Group Homes and Homes. Licensed Homes fit the definition of a Family Child Care program. CCPO Inspection policies fall under Alaska Statue (AS) and State of Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) regulation:

- **AS 47.32.040. Application for license.** A person shall apply to the department for a license under this chapter. The application must be made to the department on a form provided by the department or in a format approved by the department, and must be accompanied by any fee established by regulation; and documents and information required by regulation.
- AS 47.32.050(a). Provisional license; biennial license. (a) The department may issue a provisional license to an entity for which application is made under AS 47.32.040 if, after inspection and investigation, the department determines that the application and the entity meet the requirements of this chapter, regulations adopted under this chapter, and any other applicable statutes or regulations. A provisional license is valid for a period not to exceed one year, except that the department may extend a provisional license for one additional period not to exceed one year. (b) Before expiration of a provisional license issued under (a) of this section, the department shall inspect and investigate the entity to determine whether the entity is operating in compliance with this chapter, regulations adopted under this chapter, and any other applicable statutes or regulations. After inspection and investigation under this subsection and before expiration of a provisional license, the department shall issue a biennial license for the entity if the department finds that the entity meets the requirements for biennial licensure established in this chapter, regulations adopted under this chapter, and other applicable statutes and regulations; a ground for nonrenewal of a license does not exist; and any applicable fee has been paid. The department may place one or more conditions on a provisional or biennial license issued under this section in order to further the purposes of this chapter.
- Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.025. Compliance and other reviews. (a) For purposes of determining compliance with and achieving the purposes of AS 47.05.300 47.05.990, AS 47.32, 7 AAC 10.900 7 AAC 10.990 (barrier crimes, criminal history checks, and centralized registry), 7 AAC 10.1000 7 AAC 10.1095 (environmental health and safety), and this chapter, and for purposes of ongoing monitoring, the department may conduct inspections and investigations

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under AS 47.32.060 and 47.32.090 - 47.32.110, including announced or unannounced on-site inspections and investigations under 7 AAC 10.9600 - 7 AAC 10.9620. (b) In addition to conducting compliance and monitoring reviews described in (a) of this section, the department will (1) review for completeness a license application or variance request and notify the applicant not later than 10 days after the department receives the application or request of any omission or additional information required; (2) conduct, not later than 90 days after the department receives a complete application, a pre-service health and safety inspection of the facility for the purposes of compliance for a provisional license; (3) conduct, not earlier than 90 days before the provisional license expiration date, a compliance inspection of the facility for the purposes of converting a provisional license to a biennial license; (4) conduct, not earlier than 60 days before and not later than 60 days after the license anniversary date, an annual inspection of the facility for the purposes of monitoring compliance; (5) conduct, not later than 90 days after the department receives a complete application, a renewal inspection of the facility for the purposes of determining compliance to renew a biennial license; (6) conduct, annually during each licensing period, an unannounced health and safety inspection of the facility for the purposes of monitoring compliance; (7) conduct, when the department receives a complaint, an investigation of the facility for the purposes of determining compliance with this chapter or other applicable law; and (8) except as provided in (c) of this section, issue an updated license not later than 20 days after the department receives and approves (A) a request for an updated license or (B) notice of a change under AS 47.32.200 or 7 AAC 57.240(a) or (b)(4), if the department determines an updated license is required.

- Licensing, Certifications, and Approvals regulation 7 AAC 10.9600. Inspections and investigations. The department will conduct announced and unannounced inspections and investigations of an entity or individual service provider that is subject to AS 47.05.300 - 47.05.390, AS 47.32, or this chapter (1) for purposes of AS 47.05.300 - 47.05.390 and AS 47.32.110; (2) to determine compliance with AS 47.05.300 - 47.05.390, AS 47.32, this chapter, and any other applicable statute or regulation; and (3) to determine whether an enforcement action should be taken under AS 47.05.300 - 47.05.390, AS 47.32.130, or 47.32.140.

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than November 19, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than November 19, 2016)

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Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

c) Inspections for License-Exempt CCDF Providers (except those serving relatives)) - It will have policies and practices that require licensing inspectors (or qualified monitors designated by the lead agency) of child care providers and facilities to perform an annual monitoring visit of each license-exempt CCDF provider (unless the provider is described in section (658P(6)(B)). (658E(c)(2)(K)(ii)(IV))

Yes

The State/Territory certifies that as of March 1, 2016 it has policies and practices regarding inspections for license-exempt CCDF providers. List the policy citation and describe the annual monitoring visit requirements:

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than November 19, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

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Overall Target Completion Date (no later than November 19, 2016) 12/31/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Partially implemented

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Revisions to regulations, policies, and procedures are required to meet this requirement. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has drafted the necessary revisions to the Child Care Assistance Program regulations to include this provision. These regulation revisions are in the public comment process from April 21, 2016 - June 13, 2016. A waiver for extension of the deadline is requested due to regulatory adoption and filing delays.

In December 2014, the CCPO began drafting regulation revisions to 7 AAC 41 Child Care Assistance Program based on the CCDBG reauthorization specific to requiring annual monitor visits for license-exempt child care providers.

Informational meetings with Child Care Assistance participating families and providers along with grantees and other partners were held throughout the state during December 2014 and again in December 2015 to gather input regarding implementing this provision. Proposed regulation revisions were submitted to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services early 2016 for posting to solicit public comment and complete the regulation adoption process.

The CCPO has partnered across the Division of Public Assistance to ensure alignment wherever practicable. Input has been solicited from: Child Care Assistance Grantees: Work Services Providers: Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread; families; providers; and the general public. The CCPO is utilizing a Division of Public Assistance-wide contractor to assist in the drafting of regulation revisions.

The CCPO will continue with drafting revisions to policies and procedures based on the final draft of proposed regulation revisions. The final policies and procedures will be implemented with the adoption of revised regulations anticipated by December 31, 2016.

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Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented policies and practices that require licensing inspectors (or qualified monitors designated by the lead agency) of child care providers and facilities to perform an annual monitoring visit of each license-exempt CCDF provider (unless the provider is described in section (658P(6)(B))).

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require an annual monitoring visit for license-exempt CCDF child care providers.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period, April 21, 2016 through June 13, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/01/2016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the

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Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require an annual monitoring visit for license-exempt CCDF child care providers.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by Child Care Assistance Program
 Designees, Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing
 Program, and the Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team.

Projected start date for each activity: 01/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement revised Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) regulations and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Post to the Child Care Program Office website.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program (designee), Child Care Assistance Program designees.
- Communication plan to share this change with child care providers, including adding to this requirement to the CCAP provider orientation.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/12/016
Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement annual monitoring visits for license-exempt CCDF child care providers.

Projected start date for each activity: 12/31/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance.

d) Ratio of Licensing Inspectors) - It will have policies and practices that require the ratio of licensing inspectors to such child care providers and facilities in the State/Territory to be maintained at a level sufficient to enable the State to conduct inspections of such child care providers and facilities on a timely basis in accordance with Federal, State, and local law. (658E(c)(2)(K)(i)(III))

TYes.

The State/Territory certifies that it has policies and practices regarding the ratio of licensing inspectors to such child care providers and facilities in the State/Territory. List the policy citation and list the State/Territory ratio of licensing inspectors:

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no

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later than November 19, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than November 19, 2016) 11/19/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Not yet started

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Child Care Licensing maintains an appropriate ratio of licensing inspectors to child care providers throughout the state. Currently the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office and the designee for Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing both meet national best practices, per *We Can Do Better* (published by Child Care Aware of America) by maintaining ratios of 50 or less child care providers assigned to each licensing inspector. However, inclusion of health and safety inspections in the future of legally exempt providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program may impact our ability to sustain this standard. A practice of ensuring no more than 75 child care providers per licensing inspector will be included in the next Child Care Licensing Procedures Manual revision.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented the ratio of licensing inspectors to such child care providers and facilities in the State/Territory to be maintained at a level sufficient to enable the State to conduct inspections of such child care providers and facilities on a timely basis in accordance with Federal, State, and local law.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Conduct research on the average number of child care providers/ facilities a licensing inspector will have on their caseload with the addition of health and safety inspections for license exempt providers.

- 6/2016 - Compare annual trends of number of license exempt provider types and their geographic region.

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Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 07/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Convene a series of meetings to determine the ratio of licensing inspector to providers/facilities with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing designee. These meetings will continue until the task is complete.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Include the determined standard ratio of licensing inspector to providers/facilities in the State's and the Municipality of Anchorage's Child Care Licensing procedures manuals.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/30/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 11/19/2016

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Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

e) **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting** - That child abuse reporting requirements are in place and comply with section of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i)) (658E(c)(2)(L))

Yes.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above. List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s):

Alaska Statute (AS) 47.17.020. Persons Required to Report. (a) The following persons who, in the performance of their occupational duties, or with respect to (8) of this subsection, in the performance of their appointed duties, have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect shall immediately report the harm to the nearest office of the department: (1) practitioners of the healing arts; (2) school teachers and school administrative staff members of public and private schools; (3) peace officers and officers of the Department of Corrections; (4) administrative officers of institutions; (5) child care providers; (6) paid employees of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and crisis intervention and prevention programs as defined in AS 18.66.990; (7) paid employees of an organization that provides counseling or treatment to individuals seeking to control their use of drugs or alcohol; (8) members of a child fatality review team established under AS 12.65.015(e) or 12.65.120 or the multidisciplinary child protection team created under AS 47.14.300.

No. If no, the State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than November 19, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

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Overall Target Completion Date (no later than November 19, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

5.2.3 States and Territories have the option to exempt relatives (as defined in CCDF regulations as grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings if living in a separate residence, aunts, and uncles, 98.41(A)(ii)(A)) from inspection requirements.

Note this exception only applies if the individual cares ONLY for relative children. Does the State/Territory exempt relatives from inspection requirements listed in 5.2.2?

Yes, all relatives are exempt from all inspection requirements.

If the State/Territory exempts all relatives from the inspection requirements, describe how the State ensures the health and safety of children in relative care.

Currently Approved Relative Providers certify they meet and will continue to meet all the health and safety regulations required for participation in the Child Care Assistance Program. All household members 18 years of age and older obtain a criminal history check. Reported concerns are investigated and if necessary enforcement action taken.

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Yes, some relatives are exempt from inspection requirements.
If the State/Territory exempts some relatives from the inspection requirements, describe
which relatives are exempt from which requirements (all or some) and include how the
State/Territory ensures the health and safety of children in relative care.
No, relatives are not exempt from inspection requirements.

5.3 Criminal Background Checks

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added new requirements for States and Territories receiving CCDF funds to conduct criminal background checks on child care staff members and prospective staff members of child care providers. States and Territories must have requirements, policies, and procedures in place to conduct criminal background checks for staff members of child care providers (other than relatives) that are licensed, regulated or registered under State/Territory law or receive CCDF funds. Background check requirements apply to any staff member who is employed by a child care provider for compensation or whose activities involve the care or supervision of children or unsupervised access to children. For family child care homes, this includes the caregiver requesting a check of him/herself, as well as other adults in the household that may have unsupervised access to children. These provisions must be in place no later than September 30, 2017.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 specifies what a comprehensive criminal background check includes and a child care provider must submit a request to the appropriate State/Territory agency for a criminal background check for each child care staff member, including prospective child care staff members at least once every 5 years. A criminal background check must include a search of: State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years; State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years, National Crime Information Center (run by the FBI); FBI fingerprint check using Next Generation Identification; and National Sex Offender Registry. Child care staff members cannot be employed by a provider receiving CCDF if they refuse a background check; make materially false statements in connection with the background check; are registered or required to be registered on the State or National Sex Offender Registry; have been convicted of a felony consisting of: murder, child abuse or neglect, crimes against children, spousal abuse, crime involving rape or sexual assault, kidnapping, arson, physical assault or battery, or subject to an individual review, at the State's option, a drug-related offense

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committed during the preceding 5 years; or have been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child.

Timeliness of background checks - The State/Territory must conduct the background checks as quickly as possible and shall not exceed 45 days after the child care provider submitted the request. The State/Territory shall provide the results of the background check in a statement that indicates whether the staff member is eligible or ineligible, without revealing specific disqualifying information. If the staff member is ineligible, the State/Territory will provide information about each disqualifying crime to the staff member.

Fees for background checks - Fees that a State/Territory may charge for the costs of processing applications and administering a criminal background check may not exceed actual costs to the State/Territory for processing and administration.

Transparency - The State/Territory must ensure that policies and procedures for conducting criminal background checks are published on the State/Territory's consumer education website (also see section 2.3) or other publicly available venue.

Appeals process - The State/Territory shall have a process for a child care staff member to appeal the results of their background check to challenge the accuracy and completeness. Privacy considerations - Lead Agency may not publicly release the results of individual background checks.

5.3	.1 Describ	e the status	of the Sta	te/Territo	ry's requ	uirements,	policies,	and p	rocedures	S
for	criminal b	ackground	checks fo	r child car	e staff r	nembers a	nd child	care p	roviders.	

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above.
List the policy citation within the Lead Agency's rules and describe the policies and
procedures for criminal background checks using 5.3.2 through 5.3.9 below.

Not implemented. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2017). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2017) 09/30/2017

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented

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Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, currently meets the following criminal background check requirements:

- Requirements, policies, and procedures in place to conduct criminal background checks for staff members of child care providers (other than relatives) that are licensed, regulated or registered under State/Territory law or receive CCDF funds.
- 2. Background check requirements apply to any staff member who is employed by a child care provider for compensation or whose activities involve the care or supervision of children or unsupervised access to children. For family child care homes, this includes the caregiver requesting a check of him/herself, as well as any other individuals in the household that may have unsupervised access to children.
- 3. Conduct the background checks as quickly as possible and shall not exceed 45 days after the child care provider submitted the request.
- 4. Provide the results of the background check in a statement that indicates whether the staff member is eligible or ineligible, without revealing specific disqualifying information.
- 5. If the staff member is ineligible, the State/Territory will provide information about each disqualifying crime to the staff member.
- 6. Fees for background checks Fees that a State/Territory may charge for the costs of processing applications and administering a criminal background check may not exceed actual costs to the State/Territory for processing and administration.
- 7. Ensure that policies and procedures for conducting criminal background checks are published on the State/Territory's consumer education website.
- 8. Have a process for a child care staff member to appeal the results of their background check to challenge the accuracy and completeness.
- 9. Lead Agency may not publicly release the results of individual background checks. They may release aggregated data by crime as long as the data does not include personally identifiable information.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. Includes and a child care provider must submit a request to the appropriate State/Territory agency for a criminal background check for each child care staff member, including prospective child care staff members at least once every 5 years.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require a criminal history check for each child care staff member at least once every 5 years and include Relative Providers as a provider covered under this regulation.

- Revise 7 AAC 10.910(c) to change this requirement from every 6 years to every 5 years.
- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Require a criminal history check for each child care staff member at least once every 5 years for providers licensed by the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program (designee).

- Convene a series of meetings with the Alaska Background Check Program to explore and add if possible licensed providers within the Municipality of Anchorage under 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 990 to

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meet this requirement. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.

- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program to ensure this requirement is met for licensed child care providers within the Municipality Anchorage.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 05/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require a criminal history check for each child care staff member occurs at least once every 5 years.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program

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Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require a criminal history check for each child care staff member occurs at least once every 5 years.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing

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staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers of the requirement of a criminal history check for each child care staff member occurs at least once every 5 years.

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and CCAP of the new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement the requirement of a criminal history check for each child care staff member at least once every 5 years.

- 8/1/2017 Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to ensure applicable criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedures manuals are posted to the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program website.
- 9/30/2017 Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Alaska Public

Information Team.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years;

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require for Relative providers, a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet

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requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

For child care providers licensed within the Municipality of Anchorage, require a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Convene a series of meetings with the Alaska Background Check Program to explore and add if possible licensed providers within the Municipality of Anchorage under 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 990 to meet this requirement. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program to ensure this requirement is met for licensed child care providers within the Municipality Anchorage.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 05/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant

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Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers of the requirement for a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program staff, and CCAP Designees of the new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement the requirement of a search of State criminal and sex offender registry in

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the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- 8/1/2017 Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to ensure applicable criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals are posted to the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program website.
- 9/30/2017 Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Alaska Public Information Team.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years,

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require for Relative providers, a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.

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- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

For child care providers licensed within the Municipality of Anchorage, require a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Convene a series of meetings with the Alaska Background Check Program to explore and add if possible licensed providers within the Municipality of Anchorage under 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 990 to meet this requirement. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program to ensure this requirement is met for licensed child care providers within the Municipality Anchorage.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 05/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past

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5 years.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers of the requirement for a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program staff, and CCAP Designees of the new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the requirement.

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Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement the requirement of a search of State child abuse and neglect registry in the State where the staff member resides and each State where the staff member has resided over the past 5 years.

- 8/1/2017 Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to ensure applicable criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals are posted to the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program website.
- 9/30/2017 Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Alaska Public Information Team.

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Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. National Crime Information Center (run by the FBI)

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require for Relative providers, a search of the National Crime Information Center (run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require a search for Relative Providers of the National Crime Information Center (run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant

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Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require for Relative providers, a search of the National Crime Information Center (run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and Relative providers, of the requirement for a search of the National Crime Information Center (run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers.
- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and CCAP of new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement to require for Relative providers, a search of the National Crime Information Center (run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

 9/30/2017 - Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Public Information Team.

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Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. FBI fingerprint check using Next Generation Identification

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require for Relative providers a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint checks using Next Generation Identification (NGI).

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require for Relative providers an Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint check using Next Generation Identification (NGI).

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.

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- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require for Relative providers a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint checks using Next Generation Identification (NGI).

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Division of Public Assistance

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Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and Relative providers, of the requirement for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint checks using Next Generation Identification (NGI).

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and CCAP of new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement to require for Relative providers a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint checks using Next Generation Identification (NGI).

 9/30/2017 - Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

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Alaska Public Information Team.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. National Sex Offender Registry.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to require for Relative providers, a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

For child care providers licensed within the Municipality of Anchorage, require a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- Convene a series of meetings with the Alaska Background Check

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Program to explore and add if possible licensed providers with the Municipality of Anchorage un 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 990 to meet this requirement. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.

 Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program to ensure this requirement is met for licensed child care providers within the Municipality Anchorage.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 05/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to require a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law;

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Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to require a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing

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staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers of the requirements of a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and CCAP of new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement the requirement of a search of National Sex Offender Registry.

- 9/1/2017 Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program to ensure applicable criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals are posted to the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program website.
- 9/30/2017 Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Alaska Public

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Information Team.

Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented. Child care staff members cannot be employed by a provider receiving CCDF if they refuse a background check; make materially false statements in connection with the background check; are registered or required to be registered on the State or National Sex Offender Registry; have been convicted of a felony consisting of: murder, child abuse or neglect, crimes against children, spousal abuse, crime involving rape or sexual assault, kidnapping, arson, physical assault or battery, or subject to an individual review, at the State¿s option, a drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years; or have been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Firearms regulations to ensure Relative providers have the additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

- Repeal 7 AAC 10.900(d)(5) to include criminal background checks for Relative providers.
- Convene supplemental notice for public comment period, March 15, 2016 through April 25, 2016.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.
- Adoption of revised regulations.
- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 03/15/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 12/31/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

For child care providers licensed within the Municipality of Anchorage, to ensure additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

- Convene a series of meetings with the Alaska Background Check Program to explore and add if possible licensed providers with the Municipality of Anchorage un 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 990 to meet this requirement. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.
- Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program to ensure this requirement is met for licensed child care providers within the Municipality Anchorage.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 05/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Background Check Program; and Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Revise Child Care Assistance Program regulations to ensure additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

- Draft proposed regulations.
- Convene public comment period.
- Finalize regulations through reviews by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Law.

- Adoption of revised regulations.

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- Filing of regulation changes after signed by the Alaska Lieutenant Governor.

Projected start date for each activity: 11/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 08/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; Alaska Department of Law; Alaska Background Check Program; and Child Care Assistance Program Designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

In parallel of revising the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, revise the Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual to ensure additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

- Convene a series of policy meetings until task completion.
- Solicit input and review by: Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Quality Assurance team; and the Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment team.
- Train staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and Child Care Assistance Program designees on new requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 05/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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agency to complete implementation of this activity

Child Care Assistance Program Designees; Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; Division of Public Assistance Contracted Services Quality Assurance; and Division of Public Assistance Program Integrity Quality Assessment.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Draft communication plan for staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) designees, and child care providers to ensure additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

- 8/1/2017- Inform staff, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff, and CCAP of new requirement.
- 9/1/2017 Draft and distribute communication plan to inform child care providers of the requirement.

Projected start date for each activity: 08/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Child Care Assistance Program designees.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Implement additional requirements prior to becoming employed by a provider receiving CCDF funds or receiving CCDF funds.

9/1/2017 - Coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage Child
 Care Licensing Program to ensure applicable criminal background

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check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals are posted to the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Program website.

 9/30/2017 - Post revised criminal background check process documents, regulations, and applicable policies and procedure manuals to the Child Care Program Office website.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2017 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2017

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program; and Alaska Public Information Team.

5.3.2 Describe the process and procedures for conducting background checks in a timely manner, including which agency/entity is responsible and how the Lead Agency ensures that background checks performed by a 3rd party meet the requirements, protecting the privacy of child care staff members, and providing opportunities for applicants to appeal the results of background checks.

Describe:

State of Alaska statutes and regulations require all household members and child care providers over the age of 16 to obtain a valid criminal history check clearance prior to having contact with children in care: Alaska Statute (AS) 47.05.300 - 47.05.390 and Licensing, Certification, and Approvals regulation 7 AAC 10.900 - 7 AAC 10.990 Barrier Crimes, Criminal History Checks, and Centralized Registry; and Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 57.315 Child protection and criminal history check requirements.

The State of Alaska Background Check Program (BCP) processes criminal history checks for child care providers. The process and procedures for conducting a criminal history check, as well as other helpful information/tools/resources are available on the Alaska Background Check Program website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/cl/bgcheck/default.aspx. The BCP is currently processing complete applications for Provisional clearances almost

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same day.

5.3.3 Describe how the State/Territory is assisting other States process background checks, including which agency/entity is responsible for working with other states

Describe:

The State of Alaska Background Check Program (BCP) processes criminal history checks for child care providers. The BCP works with the Department of Public Safety to obtain state and FBI fingerprint check results and has access to the Lead Agency's Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) database containing child care provider/facility information and several other agency databases and registries to check: criminal histories; previous licensing history and compliance; child protective records; sex offender results; and other barring conditions.

The BCP responds to inquiries from other states when received. Additionally, the BCP has participated in meetings/calls with the federal Office of Child Care on this topic and has provided a demonstration of the New Alaska Background Check System (NABCS).

5.3.4 Does the State have a review process for individuals disqualified due to a felony drug offense to determine if that individual is still eligible for employment?

Yes.

Describe:

Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation **7 AAC 10.905**. **Barrier crimes**. Describes all crimes that bar an individual from working or residing in a child care facility.

An individual disqualified due to a barring crime or condition may submit a request for reconsideration (7 AAC 10.950) to the Alaska Background Check Program if the individual believes the determination was based on erroneous information, or if the individual has additional information for the department to consider. The request must be submitted within 30 days after the requestor receives the notice of the decision.

Regardless of the outcome of the Request for Reconsideration, if the individual is willing

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desire a valid criminal history check for that individual, the provider may request a variance, if allowed under 7 AAC 10.930.
□ _{No.}
5.3.5 Does the Lead Agency disqualify child care staff members based on their
conviction for other crimes not specifically listed above?
✓ Yes.
Describe:
Child Care Facilities Licensing regulation 7 AAC 10.905. Barrier crimes. Describes al
crimes that bar an individual from working or residing in a child care facility.
□ _{No.}
5.3.6 Does your State State/Territory exempt relatives (defined in CCDF regulations as
grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings if living in a separate residence, aunts, and
uncles, 98.41(A)(ii)(A)) from background checks?
\square Yes, all relatives are exempt from all background check requirements.
\square Yes, some relatives are exempt from the background check requirements. If the State
/Territory exempts some relatives from background check requirements, describe which
relatives are exempt. from which requirements (some or all). Describe.
No, relatives are not exempt from background checks.

to disclose the barrier crime or condition to the provider, and if the provider continues to

5.3.7 Describe how fees charged for completing the background checks do not exceed the actual cost of processing and administration, including how the State State/Territory ensures that 3rd party vendors or contractors do not charge fees that exceed the actual

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cost of processing and administration, if applicable.

Lead Agencies can report that no fees are charged if applicable:

Describe.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, pays for the cost (\$49.25) of fingerprint based checks through the Department of Public Safety for child care providers. The cost to the individual or child care facility is the State of Alaska Background Check Program (BCP) application processing fee of \$25.00 and the amount charged by the vendor who rolled the individuals' fingerprints.

The BCP confirmed the \$25.00 application processing fee they charge does not fully cover the program costs associated with completing the background check.

5.3.8 Describe how background check policies and procedures are published on the State/Territory consumer education website or made publicly available on another venue:

Describe.

"Basic Instructions for submitting a fingerprint based criminal history application" is listed on the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), website under "Information for Child Care Providers, Become a Provider" at:

http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/become_a_provider.aspx.

Additionally, a link to the Alaska Background Check Program where extensive information, tools, resources, etc. can be found is included on the CCPO's website under "Child Care Resources and Links" at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/resources.aspx.

5.3.9 Does the Lead Agency release aggregated data by crime?



List types of crime included in the aggregated data:

All barrier crimes listed in the Lead Agency's regulations at 7 AAC 10.905 Barrier Crimes are included in the aggregated data. The Lead Agency's Background Check regulations

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are located at:

http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Documents/NABCS%20Deployment%20Documents/Background%20Check%20Regulations.pdf.

The Lead Agency's Barrier Crime Matrix is located at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Documents/NABCS%20Deployment%20Documents/Barrier %20Crime%20Matrix%20FINAL--1-5-07--993-05-0179.pdf.

□_{No.}

6 Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce

Teacher-child interactions and relationships, intentional strategies to engage children and their parents, and use of curriculum and assessment to inform practices with children are key components of high quality child care. These require a competent, skilled, and stable workforce. Research has shown that specialized training and education, positive and well-organized work environments and adequate compensation promote teacher recruitment, stability, diversity of the early childhood workforce, and effectiveness with young children in child care. In addition, professional development strategies that emphasize on-site mentoring and coaching of teachers have emerged as promising to change practices with children and families. Professional development, whether training, on-site coaching and mentoring, registered apprenticeship, or higher education coursework, should reflect the research and best practices of child development in all domains and cultural competence.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires States and Territories to establish professional development and training requirements in key areas such as health and safety, early learning guidelines, responding to challenging behavior and engaging families. States and Territories are required to offer ongoing annual training and to establish a progression of professional development opportunities to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers. (658E(c)(2)(G)) An example of how a State/Territory might address this is to establish a system or framework of professional development that includes professional standards, a "career ladder" that allows an individual to build knowledge and skills in a cumulative manner from introductory training to advance level education, including obtaining credentials and post-secondary degrees. Professional development should be designed in a manner that aligns to competencies and qualifications that reflect working with children of different ages, English language learners, children with disabilities and the differentiated roles in all settings, such as teachers, teacher assistants, and directors. Training and education supporting professional development is also one of the options States and Territories have for investing their CCDF quality funds. (658G(b)(1)) ACF

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encourages States and Territories to collaborate and coordinate with other early childhood educator professional development resources, such as Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grants, quality funds available through the Preschool Development grants, and funds available through Head Start and Early Head Start, to the extent practicable. Responsive, well-qualified adult caregivers are one of the most important factors in children's development and learning in child care settings. ACF strongly encourages States and Territories to link CCDF health and safety trainings (see Section 5) and child development trainings and education to this broader professional development framework as the foundation for building a knowledgeable early childhood education workforce. Questions related to requirements for recruiting and retaining a qualified and effective child care workforce have been consolidated into Section 6.

6.1 Training and Professional Development Requirements

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that the State/Territory develop training and professional development requirements designed to enable child care providers to promote the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children and to improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce. Such requirements shall be applicable to child care providers caring for children receiving CCDF across the entire age span from birth through age 12. (658E(c)(2)(G)) Training and professional development should be accessible and appropriate across settings and types of providers, including family child care home providers and child care center staff.

The State/Territory also must develop and implement strategies to strengthen the business practices of child care providers to expand the supply and improve the quality of child care services. (658E(c)(2)(V))

For purposes of this section, the term professional development is inclusive of credit bearing coursework, postsecondary degree programs, and technical assistance (targeted assistance such as mentoring, coaching or consultation) activities. Health and safety topics that require renewal of a credential or certification should be considered continuing education unit trainings.

6.1.1 Describe the status of the State's training and professional development requirements to enable child care providers to promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children and to improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce.

a) Provide ongoing training and professional development that is accessible for the diversity of

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providers in the State/Territory; provide for a progression of professional development reflecting research and best practice to meet the developmental needs of participating infants, toddlers, preschool, and school-age children and that is aligned to foundational and specialized competencies (including different ages of children, English language learners, and children with disabilities); and improve the quality and stability of the child care workforce (such as supports an individual to build on entry- and mid-level training and education (which may include higher education) to attain a higher level credential or professional certification and retention in the child care program).

- b) Are developed in consultation with the State Advisory Council (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care or other state or state-designated cross-agency body if there is no SAC that addresses training, professional development and education of child care providers and staff.)
- c) Incorporate knowledge and application of the State/Territory's early learning and developmental guidelines (where applicable), the State/Territory's health and safety standards (as described in section 5), and incorporate social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health intervention models, which may include positive behavior intervention and support models (as described in Section 2)
- d) Are accessible to providers supported through Indian tribes or tribal organizations receiving CCDF
- e) Appropriate, to the extent practicable, for child care providers caring for children receiving child care subsidies, including children of different age groups, English language learners, children with disabilities, and Native Americans, including Indians and Native Hawaiians.

Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above. Describe using 6.1.2 through 6.1.6 below.

Not implemented. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented,

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substantially implemented, other)
Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

6.1.2 Describe how the State provides ongoing training and professional development, provides for a progression of professional development (such as allows an individualto build on entry- and mid-level training and education both in terms of the skills and knowledge they attain but also in terms of credit that leads toward a higher level credential or certification, including articulation agreements) reflecting research and best practice to meet the developmental needs of participating children and improve the quality and stability of the child care workforce:

☑ State/Territory professional standards and competencies.

Describe.

The Core Knowledge and Competency sub-committee of Alaska's System for Early Education Development (SEED), developed and published *Alaska's Early Care and Learning Core Knowledge and Competencies* (CKC) in July 2015. The CKC's are based on National and State standards including: the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Teacher Standards; the Alaska Teaching Standards; and the Standards for Culturally Responsive Teaching in Alaska as a basis for the Core Knowledge and Competencies. Additionally, Alaska's CKC's are inclusive of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) standards, Head Start Performance Standards, and the Council for Professional Recognition CDA Competency Standards.

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The CKC's are designed to provide information about what early childhood professionals who work with young children need to know, understand, and demonstrate to best facilitate children's learning and development. They are the foundation for training required to meet approval requirements, to correspond with the Early Learning Guidelines and to be utilized in curriculum and degree requirements within the University of Alaska System.

The CKC's encompass a variety of learning topics including: Child growth, development and learning; Health, nutrition, and safety; Learning environment and curriculum; Interactions with children; Family and community relationships; Professionalism and leadership; Observation and assessment; and Program planning and management. These areas of professional development have been broken down into levels of depth of knowledge and application, and aligned with the SEED registry.

One of the goals is to have the CKC's define the content of training required to meet licensing requirements as well; however, regulatory changes will be required.

Additionally, development of Alaska's Training and Trainer Approval System will align with the CKC's and bolster professional development standards and competencies.

Alaska's Core Knowledge and Competencies can be found at: http://threadalaska.org/index.cfm/Early-Educators/Forms-You-Can-Use.

Alaska's CKC's have been endorsed by the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (state advisory council), Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development State School Board.

Career ladder or lattice.

Describe.

The Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) is Alaska's early childhood professional development system. A part of SEED is the SEED Registry, a database tracking and supporting early childhood professionals. This database tracks educational and professional development milestones of early educators on an individual basis, according to the Alaska SEED Career Ladder. The Alaska SEED Career Ladder is a path articulating advancement in the early care and learning profession. It is common to

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professionals in licensed child care centers, homes, or group homes, school district Pre-Elementary and Elementary schools, private Pre-Elementary and Elementary schools, military child care, tribal child care, Early Head Start/Head Start, and in-home visiting. The SEED Career Ladder aligns with Alaska's Core Knowledge and Competencies. The SEED Professional Development Committee has a subcommittee of members specifically for looking at data, conducting research, and making recommendations for updates to the SEED Career Ladder, or aligning credentials and trainings of other programs with the ladder. The SEED career ladder is an active document that is reviewed and updated by the SEED Professional Development Committee every two years, and was most recently updated in 2015.

The SEED Career Ladder consists of two tracks, one for Early Care and Education (ECE) professionals working in the field, and one for Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program (EI/ILP) Professionals. The ECE track consists of twelve levels that range from Level 1: Working in the early care and education field or high school diploma/GED with motivation to advance in the Early Care and Education (ECE) field to Level 12: Doctorate in ECE or related field or unrelated field with thirty Early Childhood (EC) credits. The EI/ILP track ranges from Level 7: Current CDA or current Parents As Teachers credential and completion of applicable sections of the Part C credential to level 12: Ph.D. in related field with current certification or licensure (as required) and completion of the Part C Credential. The SEED Professional Development Committee is/will be exploring the possibility of future tracks on the SEED Career Ladder for school-age, Montessori, and Head Start Programs.

Currently, participation in the SEED Registry is voluntary across the programs mentioned earlier with the exception of professionals working in Early Intervention/Infant Learning Programs. All initiatives in the state require participation in the SEED registry, and Professional Development reimbursements are linked to the SEED Career Ladder, and Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System will require participation in the SEED registry. The SEED Career Ladder is also used in: determining wage incentives in pilot programs; informing decisions by administrators of individual program staff wages; and in aligning the field with salaries and wages. It is a future goal of the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, to phase in required placement for all providers working in programs that are licensed or regulated to serve children birth to age 13.

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For more information about SEED visit: http://www.seedalaska.org/index.cfm/SEED-Registry/Career-Ladder/

Articulation agreements between two- and four-year postsecondary early childhood education or degree programs.

Describe.

In Alaska, the two-year and four-year University System is rolled into one. The Early Childhood program at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is accredited by NAEYC/CAEP and provides licensure for Pre-Elementary through 3rd grade. The minor in Early Childhood Special Education adds an endorsement to the license. The Early Childhood Program at UAA offers several different minors, degrees, and certificates to support professionals, including minors in Early Childhood Special Education, and Speech Language Pathology, Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood (BAEC), Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Early Childhood (EC), and Master of Education (MED) in Early Childhood Special Ed. Programs and are all aligned to build on each other in a progressive way. The AAS program at the UAA articulates directly into the BAEC (students can take the same courses over the first two years or one of the minors). UAA does accept transfer credits from other accredited institutions. UAA regularly transfers credits from other University of Alaska (UA) institutions and others that are NAEYC accredited. The Child Development Associate (CDA) articulates into six credits through the UA system. In addition to the CDA articulation agreement, UAA articulates the completed military child care modules with the same trade; six credits toward the AAS or BAEC degree. UAA does not articulate partial credits toward the Child Development Associate (CDA), individual military modules, or informal credits from Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread. Only the completed credential is articulated.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) offers an AAS In Early Childhood Education and Baccalaureate in Child Development and Family studies. The UAF AAS Degree articulates directly into the Child Development and Family Studies BA. UAF does accept transfer credits from other accredited institutions. UAF regularly transfers credits from other University of Alaska (UA) institutions. The Child Development Associate (CDA) articulates into six credits through the UA system. In addition to the CDA articulation

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agreement, UAF articulates the completed military child care modules as 12 credits towards the UAS degree, nine of which articulate into the CDFS BA. UAF works with students for credit for prior learning when appropriate. UAF does not articulate partial credits toward the CDA or individual military modules, informal credits from Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread. Only the completed credential is articulated.

Community-based training approved by a state regulatory body to meet licensing or regulatory requirements.

Describe.

Currently, the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office or its designee for child care licensing services within the Municipality of Anchorage evaluates and determines whether provider trainings provided by themselves or other entities meet licensing or regulatory requirements. Child Care Licensing Specialists also develop and deliver to child care providers approved training that meets regulatory requirements on a quarterly basis. These trainings are commonly referred to as "Child Care Provider Licensing Chats."

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, provides the majority of community based training and training schedules and information options are available on the statewide website. thread provides training following professional standards defined by associations including: the CDA Network; Caring for our Children; NAEYC best practices; and the American Association of Pediatrics, and delivers training following Child Care Aware of America best practices for CCR&R training delivery.

Some school districts including Anchorage School District and Matanuska-Susitna Borough School district (half of Alaska's Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers) use a data base system called My Learning Plan. This database has professional development opportunities and tracks teacher's professional development. The Anchorage School District King Career Center has a career technology program offering community based professional development. The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, encourages full use of a wide range of training opportunities, including various training outlets and delivery options. Additional training is provided directly by early care and learning

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programs and through on-line options. Providers are able to access training through National Associations as well as State Associations. The state AEYC conferences also play a large role in training. The University of Alaska offers Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) courses with various education focuses.

Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System will include an Administrator's Credential in Phase 1, beginning July 2016. In collaboration with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), courses in the Early Childhood department align with this credential.

Activities at, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, are under way to implement Alaska's Training and Trainer Approval System in July 2016. The goal of the Training and Trainer Approval System includes ensuring that trainers are qualified to deliver training that meets quality standards, includes best practices, and aligns with Alaska's Core Knowledge and Competencies and Early Learning Guidelines. One of the goals in the 2015 SEED Professional Development Plan is to increase the quality of early education and training as part of the professional development system by linking to the Trainer and Training Registry.

Workforce data, including recruitment, retention, registries or other documentation, and compensation information.

Describe.

The state child care database used by child care licensing is the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS). The Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry is the database supporting early childhood professionals that track educational and professional development milestones of early educators on an individual basis. Additionally, SEED captures compensation information as well as employment history. Participation in the SEED Registry is voluntary.

Data is collected from early childhood partners by the Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO) and includes: the demographic characteristics of practitioners or providers working directly with children, training records of individuals and their qualifications, compensation information, retention rates, programs they are working in, and the number

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of scholarships or financial incentives they are receiving. This data is currently used to inform two pilot wage incentive programs for eligible professionals based on longevity in position and level of professional development/education in the early care and learning field in Anchorage and Juneau. Both pilot programs are currently funded outside of CCDF dollars.

In order to strengthen recruitment and retention activities and corresponding data, a stakeholder meeting was held with the Lead Agency, CCPO, Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing, and Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread. This meeting was held September 30, 2014 - October 1, 2014. Outcomes of this meeting included: strengthening relationships between partner organizations; sharing information, trends and data on program closures; examining state and regional challenges related to recruitment and retention; learning about best practices and other state strategies; and creating solutions for advancing recruitment and retention activities.

Advisory structure that provides recommendations for the development, revision, and implementation of the professional development system or framework.

Describe.

The Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) is a professional development system for early educators in Alaska. Managed by "thread," Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, SEED is a collaborative of the following entities with active representation from:

- Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children
- Alaska Family Child Care Association;
- Alaska Head Start Association:
- Best Beginnings;
- Camp Fire Alaska USA: Before/After School program;
- Military Child Care;
- Anchorage School District;
- Municipality of Anchorage, Child Care Licensing Program;
- State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services: Child Care
 Program Office (Child Care Assistance Program, Child Care Licensing, Child
 Care Grant, Alaska Inclusive Child Care (Alaska IN!) Program); Infant
 Learning Program (ILP, TACSEI/Pyramid Model Partnership); Early Childhood
 Comprehensive Systems; Strengthening Families; and Early Childhood
 Mental Health;
- State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development (includes Head Start Collaboration Office and Pre-Elementary School Programs);

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- thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network:
- Tribal Child Care;
- University of Alaska: Anchorage and Fairbanks;
- Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System;
- After School Network; and
- Private Child Care.

This group meets regularly to track and inform progress and activities in the Alaska Statewide Professional Development Plan (2015). This includes action steps and goals in: the Core Knowledge and Competencies; access and outreach to create a continuum of supports for recruitment and retention; qualifications, credentials, and pathways; quality assurance for training and trainers; funding; and governance.

Alaska SEED is a designated sub-committee of the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Workforce Development Committee.

Continuing education unit trainings and credit-bearing professional development.

Describe.

Continuing education training and credit-bearing professional development is available at the University of Alaska (UA). The UA Early Childhood programs are accredited by national organizations such as the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council for Accreditation of Education Preparations (CAEP - formerly NCATE), and Northwest Commission on Colleges.

State-approved trainings.

Describe.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides state-approved trainings throughout Alaska, and is required to meet Child Care Aware of America best practice standards. thread assesses training after each professional development training workshop. The participant is asked to assess the training topic, level of training, and satisfaction from the training. Additionally, thread conducts an annual child care provider survey assessing the needs of training and technical assistance throughout the state.

Distance delivery options are available for all of the Early Childhood programs at the University of Alaska institutions. thread, in coordination with the Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee is working on developing and implementing a Training and Trainer Approval System which will serve

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the quality of early education training as part of the professional development system and
will align with the Core Knowledge and Competencies.
Inclusion in state and/or regional workforce and economic development plans. Describe.
Other.
Describe.

as a quality assurance process for early childhood training in Alaska. This will increase

6.1.3 Describe how the State/Territory developed its training and professional development requirements in consultation with the State Advisory Council (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care (if applicable) or other state or state-designated cross-agency body if there is no SAC

Describe.

The Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Professional Development Committee is a subcommittee of the workforce development committee of Alaska's Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC). The SEED subcommittee is focused on the early care and learning professional development planning as part of the overall focus of the Early Childhood workforce development committee.

The AECCC workforce development committee recognizes the SEED committee as state experts and is made up of lead agency representation to guide and inform professional development requirements. In FY15, the AECCC endorsed the SEED Core Knowledge and Competencies following a presentation and request by the SEED committee. With positive endorsement from the AECCC, SEED has worked to receive additional endorsements of the Core Knowledge and Competencies including the Alaska State School Board of Education.

6.1.4 Describe how the State/Territory incorporates knowledge and application of the State's early learning and developmental guidelines (where applicable), the State/Territory's health and safety standards (as described in section 5), and

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incorporates social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health intervention models, which may include positive behavior intervention and support models (as described in Section 2) into its training and professional development requirements

Describe.

The development of the Training and Trainer Approval System will include the states Early Learning Guidelines, Core Knowledge and Competencies, Strengthening Families framework, the Alaska Pyramid Project, and health and safety standards. Pre-service training and orientation will incorporate the required identified areas of knowledge and application. Currently, the State of Alaska's child care licensing regulations state that a child care facility shall provide structure and daily activities designed to promote a child's individual physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development. The orientation for licensed child care providers reviews these requirements and ensures understanding in these topic areas.

Future regulation revisions will require all licensed and approved providers to register with the Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED), and all professional development and training requirements will need to meet the requirements of the Training and Trainer Approval System. The Strengthening Families framework and the Alaska Pyramid Project, which address social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health intervention models, are embedded into the standards of Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System.

6.1.5 Describe how the State's training and professional development requirements are accessible to providers supported through Indian tribes or tribal organizations receiving CCDF (as applicable)

Describe.

The professional development supports in Alaska are available to tribal entity's including the following through Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread: training and technical assistance; presentations from tribal conferences; Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry; and Professional Development Reimbursements. Members of Tribal Organizations receiving CCDF participate in the SEED Professional Development Committee. Additionally, thread partners through MOU's and through community outreach with Tribal Organizations receiving CCDF to align training and professional development opportunities.

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Alaska established regular quarterly meetings between the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) and Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Partners on the following topics to strengthen connections: Aug 5, 2014, AK Tribal Call regarding Licensing (CCPO Child Care Licensing); Oct 28, 2014, AK Tribal Call regarding Child Care Assistance (CCPO Child Care Assistance Program); Dec 11, 2014, AK Tribal Call regarding Professional Development (thread); and March 19, 2015, AK Tribal Call regarding Market Price Survey (CCPO). All of thread's training is accessible and available to tribal child care providers and programs. In addition to training, SEED Registry (Career Ladder), and utilization of the Core Knowledge and Competencies are available and accessible to tribal organizations receiving CCDF.

6.1.6 Describe how the State/Territory's training and professional development requirements are appropriate, to the extent practicable, for child care providers caring for children receiving child care subsidies, including children of different age groups (such as specialized credentials for providers who care for infants and/or school-age children), English language learners, children with disabilities, and Native Americans, including Indians and Native Hawaiians.

Describe.

Licensed child care providers have training requirements that cover health and safety, early childhood development, and early childhood best practices in their orientation and annual training. For providers approved to care for children receiving child care subsidies, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), is in the process of updating regulations, and policies and procedures pertaining to the Child Care Assistance Program to require pre service-orientation that covers health and safety and early childhood development.

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resources and Referral Network, thread, conducts an annual survey of child care providers to assess the training needs and brainstorm ideas on how to update the trainings or offer new training before setting the training schedule for the following year. Additionally, child care providers have the opportunity to provide feedback in training evaluations. All feedback provides thread with the opportunity to ensure the training is appropriate to the recipients and the training requirements.

The CCPO Child Care Licensing has collaborated and provided technical assistance to the North Slope Borough (NSB) to open a child care center in Barrow, Alaska. The NSB received

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a grant through the Arctic Slope Native Association. RuralCap and thread have also provided technical assistance efforts to ensure this new program is successful. The CCPO Child Care Licensing is currently collaborating with the NBS to open another child care center, also through the Arctic Slope Native Association grant, in Nuiqsut Alaska.

6.1.7 Describe the strategies the State/Territory uses to recruit and retain providers who will serve eligible children. Check all that apply and describe.

Financial assistance for attaining credentials and post-secondary degrees. Describe.

Administered by the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, SEED Professional Development Reimbursements (PDR) are available for up to one hundred percent (100%) for qualifying educational expenses up to \$1500.00 per individual per fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Applicants must be enrolled in the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry to be eligible. Pathways for Professionalism, also part of the Professional Development Reimbursements, offers financial assistance to cover the cost of a Child Development Associate credential (CDA) application or renewal, up to \$425.00 per fiscal year. Administered by thread through the Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED), the Travel Reimbursement (TR) is designed to assist child care providers with travel to attend relevant training such as conferences and workshops. The Travel Reimbursement Application must be submitted and approved in advance of the actual travel dates. Reimbursements for TR's are up to \$1000.00 per fiscal year.

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, is in the process of developing a Reimbursable Service Agreement with the University of Alaska Fairbanks for scholarships and supports to individuals taking classes in the Early Childhood department. There are many scholarship opportunities for Early Care and Learning educators enrolled in college-level programs at the University of Alaska specific to Early Childhood degrees, as well as general private scholarships. The Alaska Performance Scholarship is available to all graduates of Alaska high schools who meet academic requirements and performance criteria. The King Career Center, vocational school, maintains Early Childhood Education scholarships that are funded for high school seniors going to college to pursue Early Childhood Education degrees. Students may be eligible for full tuition assistance for full time admittance to a University of Alaska program, Alaska trade or vocational program, and other

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qualifying post-secondary partners. Alaska also has federal grants with forgiveness programs for teachers in Title 1 schools.

Financial incentives linked to education attainment and retention.

Describe.

Monthly grants are available to eligible licensed child care providers (homes, group homes and centers) participating in the Child Care Grant Program (CCG) to enhance program quality. These may be used for staff salaries and benefits; substitute care; health and safety items; supplies, equipment and activities for children in care; and child development education and training. Grants range from \$30.00-\$50.00 per child per month. In FY15, about 54% of licensed facilities participated in CCG. In FY15, 95.92% of the funds were used for the CCG category supporting staff salaries and benefits, enhancing compensation.

Administered by Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, the Quality Improvement Initiative offers mini-grants on a first come first serve basis as capacity allows. These include targeted technical assistance and training as well as monetary minigrants to improve the quality of early care and education programming. Examples of Quality Improvement Initiative mini-grants include support for starting up and/or expanding a child care program, focus on accreditation, higher quality environments (utilizing the ECERS-R and related tools), and playful learning. Expanded quality Initiative opportunities are available through leveraging additional funds. Examples include quality focus on obesity prevention, using concepts and curriculum from Let's Move Child Care, and expanding arts in early education. All future Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) quality initiatives will align with and support Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System.

Alaska SEED ROOTS AWARDS, a five-year pilot project, for fiscal years 2012 - 2017, provides annual wage incentives to child care providers working in licensed homes and centers in the Municipality of Anchorage through a grant from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community& Economic Development. Wage incentives are awarded based on employment status, wages/salaries, membership in the SEED Registry, and level attained on the Alaska SEED Career Ladder. Incentives range from \$2,080 to \$5,324 annually per individual.

The HEARTS Initiative: Hiring, Educating, and Retaining Teaching Staff, is also a program

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providing annual wage incentives. This initiative is specific to Juneau, Alaska.
Registered apprenticeship programs. Describe.
Outreach to high school (including career and technical) students. Describe. The University of Anchorage Alaska (UAA) has a tech prep agreement in place with the King Career Center (KCC) child care program. UAA welcomes many entering students from that system. Students who complete the first semester at KCC and have registered and paid for tech prep, earn three university early childhood credits. Those who take the second semester earn three additional university early childhood credits. Students must make arrangements for this credit while still in high school. They cannot articulate credits after the fact. The University of Alaska statewide distance Associate of Applied Science program also has this arrangement in place. Many high schools across the state offer child development
Expanded focus on career technology credentials has provided additional support for students interested in working toward their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
Describe.
Policies for paid annual leave. Describe.
Policies for health care benefits. Describe.
Policies for retirement benefits. Describe.
Support for providers' mental health (such as training in reflective practices and stress reduction techniques, health and mental health consultation services).

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Describe.

Other.

Describe.

Administered by the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, SEED Professional Development Reimbursements (PDR) are available for up to one hundred percent (100%) for qualifying educational expenses up to \$1500.00 per individual per fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Applicants must be enrolled in the System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry to be eligible. Pathways for Professionalism, also part of the Professional Development Reimbursements, offers financial assistance to cover the cost of a Child Development Associate credential (CDA) application or renewal, up to \$425.00 per fiscal year. Administered by thread and SEED, the Travel Reimbursement (TR) is designed to assist child care providers with travel to relevant training such as conferences and workshops. The *Travel Reimbursement Application* must be submitted and approved in advance of the actual travel dates. Reimbursements for TR's are up to \$1000.00 per fiscal year. All Professional Development Reimbursements and Travel Grants support continuing education to increase the supply and quality of child care, and therefore can be used specifically for that purpose with a focus on infant and toddler care.

6.1.8 Describe how the State/Territory will recruit providers for whom English is not their first language, or who will serve and be available for families for whom English is not their first language.

Describe.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and its designees/grantees have access to a language line, and assistance in communicating with providers for whom English is not their first language. As part of continued recruitment and retention efforts, the lead agency, in partnership with thread, will outreach to providers who do not use English as their primary language. Goals for recruitment and retention of this population include collaboration with tribal organizations.

6.1.9 How will the Lead Agency overcome language barriers to serve providers for whom

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English is not their first language? Check the strategies, if any, that your State/Territory has chosen to implement. ☑ Informational materials in non-English languages Training and technical assistance in non-English languages CCDF health and safety requirements in non-English languages Provider contracts or agreements in non-English languages Website in non-English languages Bilingual caseworkers or translators available Collect information to evaluate on-going need, recruit, or train a culturally or linguistically diverse workforce Other. Describe. Interpreter Services are available to an individual who is not able to or is limited in speaking, reading, or writing English, or the individual requests translation services. Telephonic services are provided free of charge by the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) for DPA staff and Designees through Linguistica at 1-866-908-5744. Additionally, upon request, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, utilizes translation services through the Alaska Immigration Justice Project to ensure training and technical assistance is available to all child care providers, regardless of language. Some areas of Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread's, website are available in Spanish and are available to provide a high level overview and understanding of services, supports and resources available. thread, also offers training and technical assistance in Spanish. By request, thread can support providers who speak and learn in another language. thread offers information, support and access to services available on their website. Applications are available in Spanish for the Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry and related financial reimbursement supports, participation in the Child Care Search database, and application for quality initiative participation.

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If the Lead Agency checked any option above related to providing information or services in

None

other non-English languages, please list the primary languages offered (top 3) or specify that the State has the ability to have translation/interpretation in all primary and secondary languages

Alaska has the ability to have translation/interpretation in all primary and secondary languages by a language line service.

6.1.10 The State/Territory must use CCDF for activities to improve the quality or availability of child care, including training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. (658E(c)(3)(B)(i) Describe the status of the State/Territory's training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and their families (connects to Section 3.2.2).

Describe the status of the State/Territory's training and technical assistance to providers on
identifying and serving homeless children and their families (connects to Section 3.2.2).
Tyes.

The State certifies that no later than March 1, 2016 it will provide training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. Describe that training and technical assistance for providers

No. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016) 09/30/2016

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other) Not yet started

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if

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Unmet requirement - Identify the requirement(s) to be implemented Use CCDF for activities to improve quality or availability of child care, including training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Obtain materials and resources necessary to provide training and technical assistance to child care providers serving homeless children and families and ensure access to training opportunities and/or materials and resources.

- 6/2016 Collaborate with the Statewide Coordinator for Homeless Education to obtain training materials and resources for child care providers to identify and serve homeless children and families.
- 6/2016 Collaborate with thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network to obtain training materials and resources for child care providers to identify and serve homeless children and families.
- 6/2016 Research national best practices on training, technical assistance, and outreach strategies.
- Determine the available methods by which providers may receive the training and/or available materials and resources and ensure access.

Projected start date for each activity: 06/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/01/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resources and Referral Network.

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Train staff and Child Care Assistance Program designees on how to refer child care providers for information, training and technical assistance for identifying and servicing homeless children and families.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education Program Manager; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; and thread, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resources and Referral Network.

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Distribute materials and resources to child care providers about serving homeless children and families.

- 9/2016 Ensure materials are available to child care providers through Child Care Assistance Program offices and on a resource list for participating providers.
- 9/2016 Make materials and resources available on the Child Care Program Office website.
- 9/30/2016 Communication plan for child care providers and families.

Projected start date for each activity: 09/01/2016 Projected end date for each activity: 09/30/2016

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office.

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead

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agency to complete implementation of this activity

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Homeless Education

Program Manager; Child Care Assistance Program Designees; and thread,

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resources and Referral Network.

6.2 Supporting Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce with CCDF Quality Funds

States and Territories may use the quality set-aside discussed in detail in section 7 to support the training and professional development of the child care workforce.

6.2.1 If checked yes to 7.1 in the next section, check which content is included training and professional development activities. Check all that apply.

Yes, If yes,

a) Describe the measures relevant to this use of funds that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), tracks the number of child care programs licensed by the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage. This number is often matched against the number of non-licensed but regulated child care programs that are eligible for CCDF subsidy. The CCPO also measures the use of Child Care Grant Program dollars and how those resources are utilized to enhance program quality.

Additionally, the CCPO tracks and monitors state and local policy (most recently related to city/borough zoning and safe water), including wage incentive programs, supporting or impeding quality child care programs.

Additionally, the CCPO, in partnership with Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, tracks the number of programs involved in intensive quality initiatives and receiving enhanced training and technical support.

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These initiatives include the use of the following tools on a limited basis for selected licensed programs for Quality Improvement Environmental Rating Scales, Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS), School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS), Family Day Care Environmental Rating Scale (FDCRS); Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Program Administration Scale (PAS) for child care centers, or Business Administration Scale (BAS) for family child care homes; Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and The Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) for social emotional development through the Pyramid Model Partnership/Strengthening Families. Technical assistance that utilizes the environmental rating scales is provided through nationally trained and reliable assessors. Technical assistance provided outside the environmental rating scales is conducted by staff that have appropriate education and experience to ensure quality.

Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System will also develop performance measures on program quality including but not limited to required training, score thresholds on assessments such as the ECERS-R, Administrator credentials and individual teacher participation in the Alaska System for Early Education Development (SEED) Registry.

b) Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)
--	-----------------------

CCDF funds.

Describe:

CCDF targeted and discretionary funds will be used to support these activities.

Other funds.

Describe:

Other Alaska Early Care and Learning partners/stakeholders may choose to support these activities with their specific funding resources.

c) Check which content is included in training and professional development activities. Check all that apply.

Promoting the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children,

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including those related to nutrition and physical activity, using scientifically-based, developmentally-appropriate and age-appropriate strategies as required in 6.1.1c. Describe:

All training provided by Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, follows the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs), which outline the developmental milestones for children as they prepare for Kindergarten. The ELGs include information on social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children. Additionally, thread utilizes the Caring for Young Children and American Academy of Pediatricians to promote scientifically based and developmentally appropriate strategies in training and professional development. thread utilizes developmentally appropriate curriculum and strategies including I am Moving, I am Learning, Creative Curriculum, and TACSEI (the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention) to promote social, emotional, physical and cognitive development support of young children.

Implementing behavior management strategies, including positive behavior interventions and support models that promote positive social-emotional development and early childhood mental health and reduce challenging behaviors, including reducing expulsions of preschool-aged children from birth to five for such behaviors (see also Section 2).

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, supports early educators in increased understanding and skills to implement behavior management strategies. Specifically, thread offers a training series entitled, "What's Beneath the Behavior" which focuses on strengthened understanding of challenging behaviors and both preventative techniques and intervention tactics to support interactions and overall classroom management. thread has developed partnerships with statewide and local early childhood mental health agencies for intervention support in an effort to reduce expulsions of preschool age children. The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, also conducts training in the form of quarterly chats for state licensed providers, with a specific chat on Behavior Guidance.

Engaging parents and families in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to expand their knowledge, skills, and capacity to become meaningful partners in

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supporting their children's positive development.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, offers child care programs quality support utilizing the Strengthening Families framework. This framework empowers child care programs to engage parents and families to expand their partnership in supporting their child's positive development. Additionally, thread offers parent engagement networking groups monthly to support families with a group of their peers to expand their knowledge and support of parenting and child development.

Developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive instruction and evidence-based curricula, and learning environments that are aligned with the State/Territory Early Learning and Development Standards.

Describe:

All training offered by thread aligns with the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.

Additionally, training is offered using evidence based curricula including Caring For Our Children, Teaching Strategies Gold, utilizing ECERS-R and CLASS assessments, and trauma informed care.

On-site or accessible comprehensive services for children and community partnerships that promote families' access to services that support their children's learning and development.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, promotes and supports accessible comprehensive services for children. The CCPO partners with Part C, Infant Learning Providers to support children being served in their natural environment of child care. Additionally, Part C infant learning makes available their on-line Ages and Stages questionnaire for child care programs and their families. This tool supports families' access to more understanding of their child development and has a goal to increase referral and access to services that support their child's learning and development.

Using data to guide program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement.

Describe:

Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System has been developed to

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evaluate programs and utilize corresponding data to ensure, support and incentivize continuous quality improvement.

Currently, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, tracks and monitors data including child care licensing variances, reasons for program closures, and access to training and technical assistance as data measures supporting continuous quality improvement.

Caring for children of families in geographic areas with significant concentrations of
poverty and unemployment.
Describe:

Caring for and supporting the development of children with disabilities and developmental delays.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, collaborates with state and local Part C programs and private mental health agencies to assure individual child mental health consultation is available for licensed centers and homes across the state. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, in collaboration with thread, administers the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!). The purpose of Alaska IN! is to enhance the skills of the child care provider, promote inclusive child care practices in child care settings, and ensure CCAP participating families including children with special needs have access to child care. Master and Bachelor level Early Intervention/Part C clinicians and teachers provide consultation to early care and learning providers where infants and toddlers with special needs are in care.

Supporting positive development of school-age children.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, offers training and technical assistance to support school age providers. In Alaska, over 40% of the child care provided is to children of school age (over 6sixyears of age). thread partners with many of the school age providers across the state to provide training,

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	Other.
	Describe:
aı	Check how the State/Territory connects child care providers with available Federal and State/Territory financial aid, or other resources for pursuing postsecondary education elevant for the early childhood and school-age workforce. Check all that apply.
	Coaches, mentors, consultants, or other specialists available to support access to
	postsecondary training including financial aid and academic counseling
	State/Territory-wide, coordinated, and easily accessible clearinghouse (i.e. online
	calendar or listing of opportunities) of relevant postsecondary education opportunities
	Financial awards (such as scholarships, grants, loans, reimbursement for
	expenses) from State/Territory for completion of postsecondary education
	Other.
	Describe:
□No).

6.2.2 Does the State/Territory require a specific number of annual training hours for child care providers caring for children receiving CCDF subsidies and in particular content areas?

States and Territories are encouraged to consult with Caring for our Children for best practices and recommended time needed to address training hour requirements.

Yes. If yes, describe:

- a) Licensed Center-Based Care
 - 1) Number of pre-service or orientation hours and any required areas/content
 State of Alaska regulations requires a child care center to provide an orientation to
 each caregiver that relates to the caregiver's duties and responsibilities that includes:
 the facility's policies and procedures; satisfying the individual needs of children;
 emergency procedures and health and safety measures; and the applicable health

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and safety requirements pertaining to licensed child care. In addition to the orientation above, a licensed child care center shall have on duty at all times at least one caregiver with valid certification for first aid and age-appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The orientation required must begin at the time of employment and must be completed within eight weeks. Regulations do not specify a certain number of pre-service or orientation hours.

A licensed child care center shall ensure that each caregiver who provides care for infants and toddlers receives training specific to the care of infants/toddlers. Training must include: recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome; preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and identifying infant and toddler developmental levels and needs. This must result in at least one hour of training in their 20 required hours during the first year of employment, and at least one hour every two years thereafter.

The State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff provide an orientation to the Administrator or governing body of a child care facility prior to licensure. This orientation includes an overview of the statutory and regulatory requirements they must comply with in order to become and remain licensed. This orientation is at least three hours.

2) Number of on-going hours and any required areas/content Individuals working in a licensed child care center are required to earn 20 hours of ongoing training annually. The required training hours are clock hours and may include any training relevant to the caregiver's responsibilities, including: health and safety; child growth and development; planning learning activities; guidance and discipline techniques; linkages with community services; communication and relations with families; and detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect. Training must be documented and include the date, subject, method of training, duration, and the name of the individual who conducted the training.

Proposed regulation changes include raising the number of hours to 24 annually, or 12 hours annually for an individual working less than 15 hours per week.

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b) Licensed Group Child Care Homes

1) Number of pre-service or orientation hours and any required areas/content
State of Alaska regulations require a licensed child care group home to provide an
orientation to each caregiver that relates to the caregiver's duties and responsibilities
that includes: the facility's policies and procedures; satisfying the individual needs of
children; emergency procedures and health and safety measures; and the applicable
health and safety requirements pertaining to the licensed child care. In addition to the
orientation above, a licensed child care group home shall have on duty at all times at
least one caregiver with valid certification for first aid and age-appropriate
cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The orientation required must begin at the time
of employment and must be completed within eight weeks. Regulations do not specify
a certain number of pre-service or orientation hours.

A licensed child care group home shall ensure that each caregiver who provides care for infants and toddlers receives training specific to the care of infant/toddler. Training must include: recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome; preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and identifying infant and toddler developmental levels and needs. This must result in at least one hour of training in their 20 required hours during the first year of employment, and at least one hour every two years thereafter.

The State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff provide an orientation to the Administrator or governing body of a child care facility prior to licensure. This orientation includes an overview of the statutory and regulatory requirements they must comply with in order to become and remain licensed. This orientation is at least three hours.

2) Number of on-going hours and any required areas/content

Individuals working in a licensed child care group home are required to earn 12 hours of on-going training annually. Training hours required in this section are clock hours and may include any training relevant to the caregiver's responsibilities, including: health and safety; child growth and development; planning learning activities; guidance and discipline techniques; linkages with community services; communication and relations with families; and detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect.

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Training must be documented and include the date, subject, method of training, duration, and the name of the individual who conducted the training, Proposed regulation changes include raising the number of hours to 24 annually, or 12 for an induvial working less than 15 hours per week.

c) Licensed Family Child Care Provider

1) Number of pre-service or orientation hours and any required areas/content
State of Alaska regulations requires a child care home with one or more employees to
provide an orientation to each caregiver that relates to the caregiver's duties and
responsibilities that includes: the facility's policies and procedures; satisfying the
individual needs of children; emergency procedures and health and safety measures;
and the applicable health and safety requirements pertaining to licensed child care. In
addition to the orientation above, a licensed child care home shall have on duty at all
times at least one caregiver with valid certification for first aid and age-appropriate
cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The orientation required must begin at the time
of employment and must be completed within eight weeks. Regulations do not specify
a certain number of pre-service or orientation hours.

A licensed child care home shall ensure that each caregiver who provides care for infants and toddlers receives training specific to the care of infant/toddler. Training must include: recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome; preventing sudden infant death syndrome; and identifying infant and toddler developmental levels and needs. This must result in at least one hour of training in their 12 required hours during the first year of employment, and at least one hour every two years thereafter.

The State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing staff provide an orientation to the Administrator or governing body of a child care facility prior to licensure. This orientation includes an overview of the statutory and regulatory requirements they must comply with in order to become and remain licensed. This orientation is at least three hours.

2) Number of on-going hours and any required areas/content Individuals working in a licensed child care home are required to earn 12 hours of ongoing training annually. Training hours required in this section are clock hours and

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may include any training relevant to the caregiver's responsibilities, including: health and safety; child growth and development; planning learning activities; guidance and discipline techniques; linkages with community services; communication and relations with families; and detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect. Training must be documented and include the date, subject, method of training, duration, and the name of the individual who conducted the training.

- d) Any other eligible CCDF provider
 - 1) Number of pre-service or orientation hours and any required areas/content

Legally exempt, regulated providers (Approved Non Relative, Approved Relative and In-home Child Care Providers) receiving CCDF funds are not currently required to complete pre-service hours; however, they do complete an orientation prior to being approved for participation in the State of Alaska Child Care Assistance Program. The orientation includes an overview of minimal health and safety requirements and first aid and age appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification within the first six months. Proposed regulation changes will require preservice training prior to approval of program participation, consisting of prevention and control of infectious diseases; prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and use of safe sleep practices; the administration of medicine; the prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premise safety; prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; emergency preparedness and response planning; handling and storing of hazardous materials; and minimum health and safety standards.

2) Number of on-going hours and any required areas/content Currently, there is no requirement for on-going hours for legally exempt regulated providers participating in the State of Alaska Child Care Assistance Program.

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- 6	_	-6	N	

6.2.3 Describe the status of the State/Territory's policies and practices to strengthen provider's business practices.

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Fully implemented - as of March 1, 2016.

Describe the State strategies including training, education, and technical assistance to strengthen provider's business practices. This may include, but is not limited to, such practices related to fiscal management, budgeting, record-keeping, hiring, developing, and retaining qualified staff, risk management, community relationships, marketing and public relations, and parent-provider communications, including who delivers the training, education and/or technical assistance

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, offers training on the "Business of Caring" accessible across the state and at several different times in a year. The Business of Caring focuses on program budgeting, developing and supporting staff and overall focus on professionalizing their business practices. Additionally, thread partners with local banks to provide training on program budgeting. Occasionally, thread offers training on business tax information and works with community partners to support program Business Planning. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and thread have explored shared services for programs and are looking to further explore share service support and opportunities as the Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) called Learn & Grow gets underway.

Not implemented. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date (no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

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Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with the State/Territory lead agency to complete implementation of this activity

6.3 Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines

The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that the State/Territory will develop, maintain, or implement early learning and developmental guidelines that are appropriate for children in a forward progression from birth to kindergarten entry (i.e., birth-to-three, three-to-five, or birth-to-five), describing what such children should know and be able to do, and covering the essential domains of early childhood development for use State/Territory wide by child care providers. (658E(c)(2)(T)) At the option of the State/Territory, early learning and development guidelines for out-of-school time may be developed. States and Territories may use the quality set-aside as discussed in section 7 to improve on the development or implementation of early learning and development guidelines.

6.3.1 Describe the status of the State's early learning and development guidelines appropriate for children from birth to kindergarten entry.

The State assures that the early learning and development guidelines are:

- Research-based, developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and aligned with entry to kindergarten
- Implemented in consultation with the State educational agency and the State Advisory Council (SAC) or other state or state-designated cross-agency body if there is no SAC
- Updated as determined by the State. List the date or frequency

Alaska's update is in the planning stage. The Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) agreed during their December 8, 2015, meeting, to make revising of Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) a key priority. Revisions to Alaska's ELGs will reflect changes in Alaska's educational standards.

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Fully implemented and meeting all Federal requirements outlined above - as of March 1,
2016. List the Lead Agency's policy citation(s) and describe using 6.3.2 through 6.3.4 below
Not implemented. The State/Territory must provide a State/Territory-specific
implementation plan for achieving compliance with this requirement, including planned
activities, necessary legislative or regulatory steps to complete, and target completion date
(no later than September 30, 2016). Please provide brief text responses and descriptions
only. Do not cut and paste charts or tables here. Your responses will be consolidated
electronically into an Implementation Plan summary report.

Overall Target Completion Date (no later than September 30, 2016)

Overall Status - Describe the State/Territory's overall status toward complete implementation for this requirement(s) (not yet started, partially implemented, substantially implemented, other)

Implemented requirement(s) - Identify any requirement(s) implemented to date if applicable

Tasks/Activities - What specific steps will you take to implement the unmet requirement (e.g., legislative or rule changes, modify agreements with coordinating agencies, etc.)

Projected start date for each activity:

Projected end date for each activity:

Agency - Who is responsible for complete implementation of this activity

Partners - Who is the responsible agency partnering with to complete implement this activity

6.3.2 Check for which age group(s) the State has established early learning and development guidelines:

	Birth	n-to-	·thr	ее
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Provide a link:

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□Th	ree-to-Five
Pi	rovide a link:
Privacade	th-to-Five rovide a link: laska's Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) may be accessed on line at tp://education.alaska.gov. Family friendly activity guides based on Alaska's ELGs are vailable in Spanish, English and Yup'ik through Best Beginnings (Public-Private artnership) at http://www.bestbeginningsalaska.org/early-learning-materials.html ve and older (check if State/Territory has standards for five and older that complement emic but cover child development areas not covered by k-12 academic standards). escribe and provide a link:
	her. escribe:
impleme assistar emotion Ye wide Ye few lo	res the State/Territory use CCDF quality funds to improve on the development or centation of early learning and development guidelines by providing technical nice to child care providers to enhance children's cognitive, physical, social and hal development and support children's overall well-being? Is, the State/Territory has a system of technical assistance operating State/Territory- Is, the State/Territory has a system of technical assistance operating as a pilot or in a recalities but not State/Territory-wide Is, but the State/Territory is in the development phase Is, the State/Territory has no plans for development
a)	If yes, check all that apply to the technical assistance and describe. Child care providers are supported in developing and implementing curriculum/learning activities based on the State's/Territory's early learning and development guidelines.

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Describe:

All licensed child care providers have received or receive upon licensure a copy of Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs). Additional copies are available at thread who also offers training courses that embed the ELGs and how to best utilize them in child care programs and with parents. During these classes, age specific activity guides are distributed as resources for early educators to utilize. The Department of Education and Early Development produced parenting activity guides aligned with Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines and printed them for mailing and free distribution to families and early care and learning professionals.

\square The technical assistance is linked to the State's/Territory's quality rating and
improvement system.

Describe:

Child care providers working with <u>infants and/or toddlers</u> have access to the technical assistance for implementing early learning and development guidelines.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides mentoring, coaching and consultation services upon request for quality improvement or when suggested by licensing as part of a program improvement plan. thread offers on-site technical assistance to programs supporting all domain activities for all age groups.

Child care providers working with <u>preschool-age children</u> have access to the technical assistance for implementing early learning and development guidelines.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides mentoring, coaching and consultation services upon request for quality improvement or when suggested by licensing as part of a program improvement plan. thread offers on-site technical assistance to programs supporting all domain activities for all age groups.

	Child	care	providers	working	with	<u>school</u>	-age	<u>children</u>	have	access	to the	technic	cal
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assistance for implementing early learning and development guidelines.

Describe:

b) Indicate which funds are used for this activity (check all that apply)

✓ CCDF funds.

Describe CCDF funds (e.g., quality set-aside, infant-toddler set aside, etc.)

1. Quality set aside used for Professional Development; and
2. Infant and toddler set aside

✓ Other funds.

Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

6.3.4 Check here to demonstrate that State/Territory assures that CCDF funds will not be used to develop or implement an assessment for children that: (658E(c)(2)(T)(ii)(I))

- Will be the primary or sole basis to determine a child care provider ineligible to participate in the CCDF program
- Will be used as the primary or sole basis to provide a reward or sanction for an individual provider
- Will be used to deny children eligibility to participate in the CCDF program
- Will be used as the primary or sole method for assessing effectiveness of child care programs
- Will be used to deny children eligibility to participate in the CCDF program

Yes.

7 Support Continuous Quality Improvement

Lead Agencies are required to reserve and use a portion of their Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for activities designed to improve the quality of child care services and

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increase parental options for, and access to, high-quality child care. Support for continuous quality improvement is expected to cover the entire age span of children supported by CCDF, from birth through age 12. States/Territories may provide these quality improvement activities directly, or through grants or contracts with local child care resource and referral organizations or other appropriate entities. The activities should be in alignment with a State/Territory-wide assessment of the State's/Territory's needs to carry out such services and care. These quality investments can align with, support and help sustain additional quality efforts developed under Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grants, Early Head Start/Head Start partnerships and other funding efforts.

States and Territories will report on these quality improvement investments through CCDF in three ways: 1) ACF will collect annual data on how much CCDF funding is spent on quality activities using the expenditure report (ACF-696); 2) In the Plan, States and Territories will describe the types of activities supported by quality investments over the three-year period; and 3) For each three-year Plan period, States and Territories will submit a separate annual report that will show the measures used by the State/Territory to evaluate its progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires States and Territories to use the quality set-aside to fund at least one of the following 10 activities:

- 1) Supporting the training and professional development of the child care workforce (as described in Section 6)
- 2) Improving on the development or implementation of early learning and development guidelines (as described in Section 6)
- 3) Developing, implementing, or enhancing a tiered quality rating system for child care providers and services
- 4) Improving the supply and quality of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers
- 5) Establishing or expanding a Statewide system of child care resource and referral services (as described Section 1)
- 6) Supporting compliance with State/Territory requirements for licensing, inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety (as described in Section 5)
- 7) Evaluating the quality of child care programs in the State/Territory, including evaluating how programs positively impact children
- 8) Supporting providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation

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- 9) Supporting the development or adoption of high-quality program standards related to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development
- 10) Other activities to improve the quality of child care services as long as outcome measures relating to improved provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or kindergarten-entry are possible.

Throughout this Plan, States and Territories will describe the types of quality improvement activities where CCDF investments are being made, including but not limited to, the quality set-aside funds. We recognize that for some areas, States and Territories may leverage other funds to support the quality improvement goals, which we encourage and support. For example, activities related to early learning and development guidelines may be supported by a combination of CCDF and education funding. States and Territories continue to have such flexibility.

7.1 Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care Services

7.1.1 What are your overarching goals for quality improvement?

Please describe how the State/Territory selected these goals, including any data or the State/Territory-wide assessment of needs that identified the needs for quality improvement services

The Lead Agency's, the Child Care Program Office, overarching goal for quality improvement is the implementation of Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System, titled Learn & Grow. Alaska is one of seven states that has yet to implement a QRIS system, and work has been done over the course of the last decade towards implementation. Learn & Grow will launch in July 2016.

7.1.2 Check and describe which of the following specified quality improvement activities the State/Territory is investing in:

Developing, implementing or enhancing a tiered quality rating system. If checked, respond to 7.2. Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)

CCDF funds.

Describe CCDF funds (e.g., quality set-aside, infant-toddler set aside, etc.) Quality set-aside.

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Other funds.

Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

The Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office, via the Child Care Grant (CCG) Program provides funding to eligible licensed child care providers on a monthly basis to enhance their program's quality. CCG funds may be used for child development education and training. Licensed child care providers may receive anywhere from \$30-\$50 per child, per month, depending upon their geographical location. In FY 15, \$14,538 was reimbursed to programs specifically for child development education and training through the CCG program.

Improving the supply and quality of child care services for infants and toddlers. If checked, respond to 7.3. Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)

CCDF funds.

Describe CCDF funds (e.g., quality set-aside, infant-toddler set aside, etc.) Infant and toddler set-aside.

Other funds.

Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

Establishing or expanding a statewide system of CCR&R services as discussed in 1.7. If checked, respond to 7.4. Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)

CCDF funds.

Describe CCDF funds (e.g., quality set-aside, infant-toddler set aside, etc.)

Quality set-aside.

Other funds.

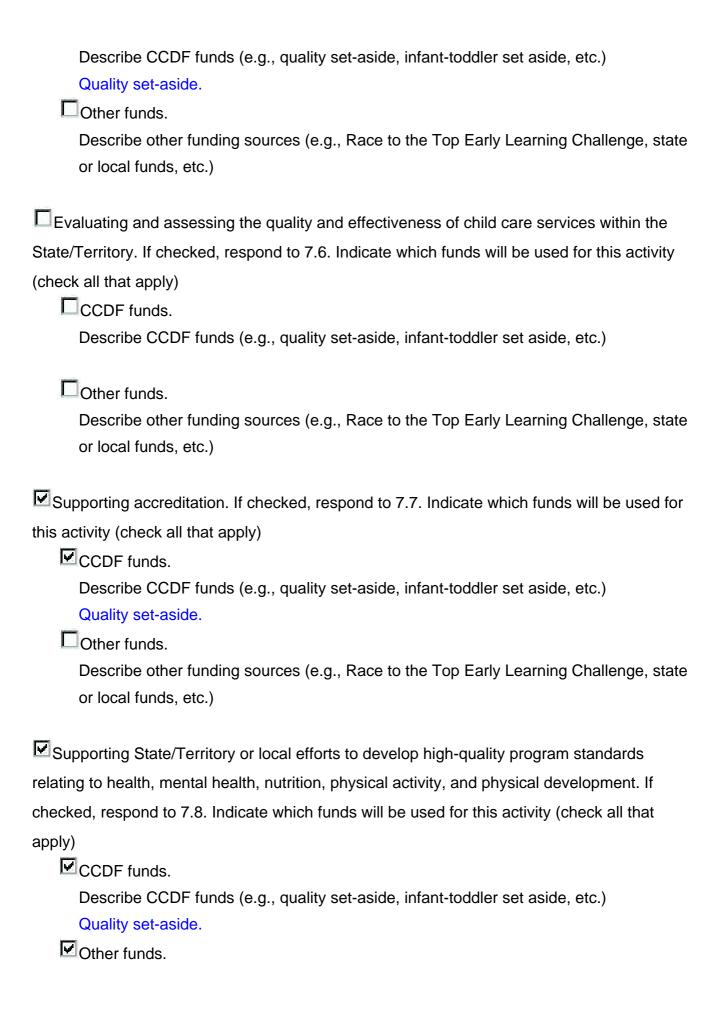
Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

State and local funds, as applicable.

Facilitating compliance with State/Territory requirements for inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety standards (as described in Section 5). If checked, respond to 7.5. Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)

CCDF funds.

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Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

State or local funds depending on the initiative.

Other activities determined by the State/Territory to improve the quality of child care services, and for which measurement of outcomes related to improved provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or entry into kindergarten is possible. If checked, respond to 7.9. Indicate which funds will be used for this activity (check all that apply)

CCDF funds.

Describe CCDF funds (e.g., quality set-aside, infant-toddler set aside, etc.) Quality set-aside.

Other funds.

Describe other funding sources (e.g., Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, state or local funds, etc.)

7.2 Quality Rating and Improvement System

7 .	2.1 Does your State/Territory have a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)?
	Yes, the State/Territory has a QRIS operating State/Territory-wide.
	Describe how the QRIS is administered (e.g., state or locally administered such as through
	CCR&Rs) and provide a link, if available
	Yes, the State/Territory has a QRIS operating as a pilot, in a few localities, or only a few
	levels but not fully operating State/Territory-wide.
	Provide a link, if available
	No, but the State/Territory is in the development phase
	No, the State/Territory has no plans for development
	a) If yes, check all that apply to your QRIS.
	Participation is voluntary

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\square Participation is mandatory for providers serving children receiving subsidy.		
If checked, describe the relationship between QRIS participation and subsidy		
(minimum rating required, participation at any level, etc.)		
Participation is required for all providers		
Includes nationally-recognized accreditation as a way to meet/achieve QRIS rating		
levels		
Supports and assesses the quality of child care providers in the State/Territory		
☐Builds on State/Territory licensing standards and other State/Territory regulato	ry	
standards for such providers		
Embeds licensing into the QRIS.		
Describe:		
Designed to improve the quality of different types of child care providers and		
services		
Describes the safety of child care facilities		
Addresses the business practices of programs		
Builds the capacity of State/Territory early childhood programs and communities	es to	
promote parents' and families' understanding of the State/Territory's early childho	od	
system and the ratings of the programs in which the child is enrolled		
\square Provides, to the maximum extent practicable, financial incentives and other		
supports designed to expand the full diversity of child care options and help child	care	
providers improve the quality of services.		
If checked, please describe how these financial options link to responses in Section	n	
4.3 related to higher payment rates tied to quality		
Can be used to track trends in whether children receiving subsidy are utilizing	ated	
care settings and level of rating		
b) If yes, which types of settings or distinctive approaches to early childhood educati and care participate in the State's/Territory's QRIS? Check all that apply.	on	
Licensed child care centers		
Licensed family child care homes		

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License-exempt providers
Early Head Start programs
Head Start programs
State pre-kindergarten or preschool program
Local district supported pre-kindergarten programs
Programs serving infants and toddlers
Programs serving school-age children
Faith-based settings
Other.
Describe:

7.2.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), oversees Alaska's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Alaska's QRIS is a quality **recognition** and improvement system, titled Learn & Grow which is administered through a grant to Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread.

The mission of Learn & Grow is to advance the quality of early care and learning to foster the success of young children. Learn & Grow will provide a framework for all early care and learning programs to follow as they participate in continuous quality improvement activities.

The CCPO anticipates implementing Learn & Grow in two phases beginning in the summer of 2016 with Phase I, which is anticipated to include Levels 1 and 2 and will be available for all licensed centers and homes in Alaska. Learn & Grow stakeholders will meet regularly to review and evaluate data, and track the progress of performance measures and goals.

7.3 Improving the Supply and Quality of Child Care Programs and Services for

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Infants and Toddlers

The CCDBG Act of 2014 included changes targeted at improving the supply and quality of infant-toddler care. Lead Agencies are encouraged to systematically assess and improve the overall quality of care infants and toddlers receive, the systems in place or needed to support and enhance the quality of infant and toddler providers and the capacity of the infant and toddler workforce to meet the unique needs of very young children, and the methods in place to increase the proportion of infants and toddlers in higher quality care.

7.3.1 What activities are being implemented by the State/Territory to improve the supply (see also section 4) and quality of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers?

Check all that apply and describe.

\square Establishing or expanding high-quality community or neighborhood-based family and child		
development centers, which may serve as resources to child care providers in order to		
improve the quality of early childhood services provided to infants and toddlers from low-		
income families and to help eligible child care providers improve their capacity to offer high-		
quality, age-appropriate care to infants and toddlers from low-income families.		
Describe:		
Establishing or expanding the operation of community or neighborhood-based family child		
care networks.		
Describe:		

Providing training and professional development to promote and expand child care providers' ability to provide developmentally appropriate services for infants and toddlers.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, provides Infant/Toddler Targeted Funds to Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, via a grant. Activities include opportunities for providers statewide to receive training that incorporates developmentally appropriate practices and instruction on infant and toddlers.

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Additionally, specific trainings on infant and toddler services are: Babies, bonds, and brains; infant and toddler child development; happy healthy babies; infant and toddler health and nutrition; and SIDS and shaken baby syndrome. thread also provides mentoring and advising of child care provider's statewide working on Infant-Toddler CDA's. thread staff will participate in conferences offered in Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage with the Associations for Education of Young Children and provide training in infant/toddler development. Infant and toddler specific courses are available at all University of Alaska institutes.

Providing financial incentives (including the use of grants and contracts as discussed in section 4) to increase the supply and quality of infant-toddler care.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, via the Child Care Grant (CCG) Program provides funding to eligible licensed child care providers on a monthly basis to enhance their program's quality. CCG funds may be used for enhanced compensation for staff salaries and benefits; substitute care; health and safety items; supplies, equipment, and activities for children; and child development education and training. Licensed providers may receive anywhere from \$30-\$50 per child per month depending upon the provider's geographic location.

Providing coaching and/or technical assistance on this age group's unique needs from Statewide networks of qualified infant-toddler specialists.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, provides Infant/Toddler Targeted Funds to Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, via a grant. thread provides on-site consultation focused on caring for infants and toddlers. thread provides quality initiative projects which include technical assistance and minigrants to facilities on The Amazing Years from Birth to Three, thread also provides on-site consultation on any specific needs of the facility, including supports around infants and toddlers, either upon request of the facility or by recommendation from Alaska's Child Care Licensing Program, thread staff use methods to customize quality supports of the needs of individual programs, including program improvement plans and technical

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assistance on the use of program assessment tools.

Coordinating with early intervention specialists who provide services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.)

Describe:

State Early Care and Learning partners recognize the growing number of children being served in their natural environment, specifically child care. Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, collaborates with state and local Part C programs and private mental health agencies to assure individual child mental health consultation is available for licensed centers and homes across the state. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, in collaboration with thread, administers the Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!). The purpose of Alaska IN! is to enhance the skills of the child care provider, promote inclusive child care practices in child care settings, and ensure CCAP participating families including children with special needs have access to child care. Master and Bachelor level Early Intervention/Part C clinicians and teachers provide consultation to early care and learning providers where infants and toddlers with special needs are in care.

Developing infant and toddler components within the State's/Territory's QRIS.

Describe:

In partnership with the Department of Education, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, facilitates the implementation of a statewide TACSEI program, locally known as the Alaska Pyramid Partnership (APP). This project includes training specific to supporting the emotional development of infants and toddlers. The sustainability goal of the APP is to align the APP framework into the QRIS quality standard of relationship and learning environments and scaffold the professional development expectations across the levels of quality.

Developing infant and toddler components within the State's/Territory's child care licensing regulations.

Describe:

The Lead Agency's, Child Care Program Office, child care licensing regulations include requirements specific to caring for infants and toddlers in the following areas: training; age appropriate CPR; supervision, including child-to-caregiver ratios and maximum

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group size; program; behavior guidance; nutrition; transportation; space; and equipment and supplies.

Developing infant and toddler components within the early learning and development guidelines.

Describe:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in partnership with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) are the lead agencies for the development of Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines (ELG). ELG's provide indicators and strategies for providers, parents and children birth to Kindergarten entry on seventy-four specific goals across five domains. These goals set the standards and expectations for Alaska's youngest children. The ELG's use indicators and strategies within and across age ranges, identifying infant and toddler specific goals, indicators, and strategies.

Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines can be found at: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/earlylearning/.

Also, family-friendly activity guides based on Alaska's ELGs are available in Spanish, English, and Yup'ik through Best Beginnings (Public-Private Partnership. The web address is http://www.bestbeginningsalaska.org/early-learning-materials.html.

Improving the ability of parents to access transparent and easy to understand consumer information about high-quality infant and toddler care.

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, includes publications in their outreach to parents that easily informs parents of quality indicators. Quality Early Care and Education: A Guide for Alaska's Families is available on thread's website as well as in thread offices around the state. This document includes what quality care looks like, meeting individual child's needs, types of regulated care and education programs, child to caregiver ratios, the cost of care, and interview checklists. Additionally, thread's referrals largely serve infant and toddler consumer education and care options. thread's We're Ready campaign includes outreach to OBGYN offices and areas where expecting mothers or women who are planning for a child can receive

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consumer education specifically on infant care. The We're Ready campaign increases family knowledge of the characteristics of high quality child care.

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has links to Infant and Toddler resources such as Zero to Three, National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, on thier website: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/resources.aspx.

Information on both the Quality Early Care and Education guide and the We're Ready campaign can be found at http://threadalaska.org/

Carrying out other activities determined by the State/Territory to improve the quality of		
infant and toddler care provided in the State/Territory, and for which there is evidence that		
the activities will lead to improved infant and toddler health and safety, infant and toddler		
cognitive and physical development, or infant and toddler well-being.		
Describe:		
_		
Other.		
Describe:		

7.3.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides fiscal support and consultation to infant/toddler CDA candidates statewide. Specialized trainings are held statewide to support the continued education of child care providers in infant/toddler categories.

In FY15, thread offered incentives for infant/toddler programs to participate in 'Bubble Babies" which offered three choices: 8 completed Active Play; 4 completed Fine Motor Skills; and 1 completed Personal Care Routines. Each program also completed a self-assessment

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based on ITERS, received training on the topic, were given materials based on their needs, and were provided with 10 hours of consultation by thread.

thread also sponsored and participated in baby expos throughout Alaska, and provided resources, referrals, and consumer education for new families and young children. Each specific activity implemented by the state has measures relevant to evaluate the progress. Activities administered by thread report on performance measures outlined in the grant in three areas: families, child care providers, and communities.

7.4 Child Care Resource & Referral

7.4.1 Describe the status of the child care resource and referral system

☑ State/Territory has a CCR&R system operating State/Territory-wide.

Describe how the CCR&R system is operated, including how many agencies and if there is a statewide network and how the system is coordinated and if it is voluntary Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, is a coordinated managing Network. The managing Network is the recipient of a grant from the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, to provide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services throughout the state.

From a statewide office in Anchorage, thread partners with regional hub locations in Fairbanks, serving Interior/Northern communities and Juneau, serving communities in Southeast Alaska. The office in Anchorage serves communities in the South Central region. Thread's mission is to advance the quality of early education and child development by empowering parents, educating child care professionals, and collaborating with our communities.

thread Southeast Alaska: AEYC - SEA

is a nonprofit and has been providing leadership in early childhood education in Southeast Alaska since 1982. AEYC-SEA was started to promote professional development for early childhood educators and advocacy for the needs and rights of young children.

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thread Interior/Northern Alaska: Thrivalaska

Thrivalaska is a community-based nonprofit corporation founded in 1974 to increase access to quality child care services in the community. Services include a before and after school program located in a local school, thread CCR&R and Child Care Assistance Program services, and community Head Start programs.

State/Territory has a CCR&R system operating in a few localities but not fully operating		
State/Territory-wide.		
Describe:		
State/Territory is in the development phase		

7.4.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, ensures performance measures of the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) grant activities align with improving the quality of child care programs and services in the state. The three target populations served are families, child care providers, and communities. Currently, the CCR&R performance measures are:

Families:

- Increased family knowledge of the characteristics of high quality child care, specifically of parents participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Increased use by parents of child care referral services statewide, specifically of parents participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.

Child Care Providers:

- Increased numbers of licensed and retained child care facilities in Alaska.
- Increased numbers of staff working in licensed child care facilities completing their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential through training and technical

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assistance offered by the grantee.

Communities:

- Increased *knowledge* of the characteristics of high quality child care and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, specifically among communities' with Early Childhood Partnerships such as those supported by Best Beginnings.
- Increase in information available regarding community needs as it relates to child care.

7.5 Facilitating Compliance with State Standards

7.5.1 What strategies does your State/Territory fund with CCDF quality funds to facilitate child care providers' compliance with State/Territory requirements for inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety, and with State/Territory licensing standards?

Describe:

Alaska's Child Care Licensing Program is fully funded by CCDF. The child care licensing program enforces regulation and code to facilitate child care providers' compliance with State/Territory requirements for inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety, with an announced and unannounced inspection annually. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, conducts New Provider Orientations to any applicant seeking licensure as part of the licensing process, as well as ongoing training and licensing chats to providers. Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, offers a New Provider quality initiative that includes technical assistance and a mini grant to eligible programs to support child care providers with licensing requirements.

7.5.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

Measures relevant to this activity include the number of trainings provided, inspections completed, and investigations completed resulting in substantiated findings. A decrease in

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the number of substantiated investigations means an increase in the overall quality of child care programs. The numbers of programs successful in becoming provisionally licensed and moving to biennial license are also measures of improving quality.

7.6 Evaluating and Assessing the Quality and Effectiveness of Child Care Programs and Services

7.6.1 One of the purposes of the CCDBG Act of 2014 is to increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings.

Describe how the State/Territory measures the quality and effectiveness of child care programs and services offered in the State/Territory, including any tools used to measure child, family, teacher, classroom, or provider improvements, and how the State/Territory evaluates that such programs positively impact children

Measures relevant to this activity include the number of trainings provided, inspections completed, and investigations completed resulting in substantiated findings. A decrease in the number of substantiated investigations means an increase in the overall quality of child care programs. The numbers of programs successful in becoming provisionally licensed and moving to biennial license are also measures of improving quality. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, is making changes in regulation to allow for health and safety inspections to approved providers receiving child care subsidy.

Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, thread, provides Technical Assistance visits to providers at their facility, around specific issues or concerns. These Technical Assistance visits allow for a facility to improve the quality of their program as a result. thread also provides quality initiatives, which include financial support, materials, and training, on quality topics, throughout the year. Any provider is eligible to apply for the quality initiatives. thread provides environmental assessments to providers when requested, and makes recommendations to providers based on results of the assessment.

Additionally, the implementation of Alaska's statewide Quality Recognition and Improvement System, Learn & Grow, will provide additional measures to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of child care programs.

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7.6.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, tracks the facilities participating in the Child Care Grant (CCG) Program, the monthly reimbursement amount, and the category of expenditure. With this data, the CCPO is able to track (and measure) which facilities are receiving funds to support quality improvements, and which category each facility is supporting with the quality funds they receive. As a result we would be able to see the progress of those participating providers improving the quality in areas of their facility.

Technical Assistance visits, quality initiatives, and environmental assessments are all tracked and reported as part of the Child Care Resource and Referral grant requirements.

7.7 Accreditation Support

7.7.1 Does the State/Territory support child care providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation by a national accrediting body with demonstrated, valid, and reliable program standards of high quality?

Yes, the State/Territory has supports operating State/Territory-wide.

Describe the supports for all types of accreditation the State/Territory provides to child care centers and family child care homes to achieve accreditation

Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, makes available a Quality Initiative to child care programs seeking National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. Quality initiative supports include completing the Accreditation self-assessment and developing goals in an aligned continuous quality improvement plan. thread then provides technical assistance and a financial mini-grant to programs to work toward and complete the plan goals.

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☐Yes, the State/Territory has supports operating as a pilot or in a few localities but not		
State/Territory-wide.		
Describe:		
No, but the State/Territory is in the development phase		
No, the State/Territory has no plans for development		

7.7.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, monitors the number of programs who have received new National Association for the Education of young Children (NAEYC) accreditation, and those who have successfully renewed their accreditation status.

7.8 Program Standards

7.8.1 What other State/Territory or local efforts, if any, is the State/Territory supporting to develop or adopt high-quality program standards relating to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development?

Please describe:

Since 2011, the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Part C, Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, and the Alaska Pyramid Partnership (APP) has been working to implement quality standards relating to the mental health of young children. This small but powerful initiative has established itself as the standard for how programs work to create positive social/emotional learning environments to support the mental health of young children. The CCPO also collaborates and participates in the development of quality initiatives with other agencies. Some initiatives are: Let's Move Obesity Prevention; Help Me Grow; Safe Sleep for infants; breastfeeding supports, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

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7.8.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory

Describe:

The Alaska Pyramid Partnership (APP) has an extensive evaluation process. There are several tools used to measure classroom, program, and child level activities. The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, has developed measures to evaluate progressive improvement of the quality of child care programs. The CCPO has also incorporated this into in each initiative in which the CCPO participates.

7.9 Other Quality Improvement Activities

7.9.1 List and describe any other activities the State/Territory provides to improve the quality of child care services and describe the measures relevant to this activity that the State/Territory will use to evaluate the State/Territory's progress in improving provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or entry into kindergarten.

The Child Care Program Office, via the Child Care Grant (CCG) Program provides funding to eligible licensed child care providers on a monthly basis to enhance their program's quality. CCG funds may be used for child development education and training. Licensed child care providers may receive anywhere from \$30-\$50 per child, per month, depending upon their geographical location. In FY 15, \$14,538 was reimbursed to programs specifically for child development education and training through the CCG Program.

8 Ensure Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability

Under CCDF, program integrity and accountability activities are grounded in the

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State/Territory's policies for implementing the CCDF program. For error rate activities, reviews are based on the State/Territory's own CCDF policies. The CCDBG Act of 2014 made sweeping changes to the program requirements. With these changes, the State/Territory has an opportunity to change their own policies to reduce the burden for participants and staff as they build in safeguards to maintain program integrity. For example, the new law focuses on eligibility requirements at the time of eligibility determination and allows for a minimum 12-month period of eligibility before redetermination, which lessens the need for participants to continually provide documentation. This, in turn, relieves the State/Territory from the burden of constantly "checking" on participants which can open the door for miscalculations, lost paperwork, and other errors.

Lead Agencies are required to have accountability measures in place to ensure integrity and to identify fraud or other program violations. These accountability measures should address administrative error, including unintentional agency error, as well as program violations, both unintentional and intentional. Violations may or may not result in further action by the Lead Agency, including those cases suspected of and/or prosecuted for fraud.

8.1 Program Integrity

8.1.1 Describe how the State ensures that their definitions for violations have been modified, staff trained, and program integrity procedures revised to reflect new requirements.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, is currently revising child care assistance regulations, policies and procedures. Proposed revisions will reduce the reporting requirements for participating families. These proposed changes will include clarification of what is an incorrect payment versus an intentional program violation and what circumstances would require a repayment of an overpayment. The revised revisions to regulation and policy will be shared through training sessions to include all CCAP grantees working with our PASS II and PASS III families, Work Services Providers working with our TANF families, the Office of Children's Services working with foster care families and children in Child Protective Services receiving child care assistance, Quality Assessment and Quality Assurance Staff to ensure consistent understanding and application.

8.1.2 Describe how the State/Territory ensures that all staff are informed and trained

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requirements.

Check all that apply.

Issue policy change notices
Issue new policy manual

Staff training

Orientations

Onsite training

Online training

Regular check-ins to monitor implementation of the new policies.

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, monitors grantees through a combination of monthly statewide random file reviews, random desk audits, quarterly quality review meetings, annual program review at the grantee's site and review of monthly statistical reports and quarterly fiscal and program narrative reports.

regarding changes made to its policies and procedures to reflect new CCDF

8.1.3 Describe the processes the Lead Agency will use to monitor all sub-recipients, including those described in Section 1, such as licensing agencies, child care resource and referral agencies, and others with a role in administering CCDF.

Other.

Describe:

The Lead Agency is responsible for ensuring effective internal controls over the administration of CCDF funds. Lead Agencies that use other governmental or non-governmental sub-recipients to administer the program must have written agreements in place outlining roles and responsibilities for meeting CCDF requirements.

Definition: "Subrecipient means a non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency (2 CFR 200.93). Two CFR Part 200, Subpart A provides additional information on contractors (which may be referred to as "vendors"). The

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description of monitoring must include, but is not limited to, a description of the written agreements used, a schedule for completing the tasks, a budget which itemizes categorical expenditures consistent with CCDF requirements and indicators or measures to assess performance. Additional items for discussion may include: fiscal management, review of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with CCDF regulations, and monitoring/auditing contractors or grantees to ensure that eligible children are served and eligibility documentation is verified."

Describe:

The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO), in conjunction with the Division of Public Assistance, Program Integrity, Contracted Services Quality Assurance and Quality Assessment, conducts annual reviews of the Child Care Assistance (CCA), Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R), thread, and Child Care Licensing (CCL) grantees and sub-grantees regarding child care services. The grant document contains measurements to be reviewed for grantees in addition to establishing reporting requirements for spending grant funds and meeting program expectations. A site visit is conducted annually at each grantee agency for grant compliance which includes review of the grantee's work product.

The CCA monitor process includes reviewing a random sample of family and provider case files, for each grantee, to ensure all factors of eligibility were addressed and determined according to policy and procedure. Payments verified by the grantee are compared to billings submitted by the provider to ensure payments are correct. Family and provider files determined not eligible for participation are reviewed to ensure participation is denied or the file is closed according to policy and procedure. Review of the work product is done on a monthly basis and discussed quarterly with the grantee of causal factors, case corrections, and corrective actions to prevent the re-occurrence of such errors in the future. The CCPO provides any necessary training and technical assistance to the grantees and assures appropriate corrective action is taken.

The CCPO conducts quarterly training teleconferences with all CCA grantees regarding both specific CCA policy with implementation clarification and guidance and general statewide trends of the program. The teleconferences also allow all grantees to network with each other and develop best practices for statewide considerations.

The CCR&R grant document contains measurements to be reviewed for grantees in addition

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to establishing reporting requirements for spending grant funds and meeting program expectations. A site visit is conducted annually at each grantee agency for grant compliance.

An annual on-site visit is conducted with the grantee and each sub-grantee to ensure grant compliance resulting in an annual monitor report that identifies areas of needed improvement; provides suggestions on how they can meet program expectations and notes areas of strength. Any areas of needed improvement are addressed to the grantee in writing. The grantee must provide a written response detailing the corrective actions they have or will take to come into compliance within a prescribed time period.

The CCL grant document contains measurements to be reviewed for grantees in addition to establishing reporting requirements for spending grant funds and meeting program expectations. The CCL monitor process includes reviewing a random sample of provider files and an annual site visit at the grantee agency for grant compliance.

An annual on-site visit is conducted with the grantee to ensure grant compliance resulting in an annual monitor report that identifies areas of needed improvement; provides suggestions on how they can meet program expectations and notes areas of strength. Any areas of needed improvement are addressed to the grantee in writing. The grantee must provide a written response detailing the corrective actions they have or will take to come into compliance within a prescribed time period.

8.1.4 Describe the activities the Lead Agency has in place to identify program violations and administrative error to ensure program integrity using the series of questions below. Program violations may include intentional and unintentional client and/or provider violations as defined by the Lead Agency.

Administrative error refers to areas identified through the Error Rate Review process. Lead Agencies are required to have processes in place to identify fraud or other program violations.

a) Check which activities the Lead Agency has chosen to conduct to identify unintentional or

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intentional program violations.			
Share/match data from other programs (e.g., TANF, Child and Adult Care Food			
Program (CACFP), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Medicaid) or other database			
(e.g., State Directory of New Hires, Social Security Administration, Public Assistance			
Reporting Information System (PARIS))			
Run system reports that flag errors (include types) Describe:			
Review of enrollment documents, attendance or billing records			
Conduct supervisory staff reviews or quality assurance reviews			
Audit provider records			
Train staff on policy and/or audits			
Other.			
Describe:			
None.			
Describe what measures the Lead Agency plans to put in place to address program			
integrity along with action steps and completion timelines:			
b) Check which activities the Lead Agency has chosen to conduct to identify administrative error.			
Share/match data from other programs (e.g., TANF, Child and Adult Care Food			
Program (CACFP), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Medicaid) or other databases			
(e.g., State Directory of New Hires, Social Security Administration, Public Assistance			
Reporting Information System (PARIS))			
Run system reports that flag errors (include types)			
Describe:			
Review of enrollment documents, attendance or billing records			
Conduct supervisory staff reviews or quality assurance reviews			
Audit provider records			
☑ Train staff on policy and/or audits			

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Other. Describe:
None. Describe what measures the Lead Agency plans to put in place to address program integrity along with action steps and completion timelines:
8.1.5 Which activities (or describe under "Other") the Lead Agency will use to investigate and collect improper payments due to program violations or administrative error as defined in your State/Territory?
The Lead Agency has the flexibility to recover misspent funds as a result of errors. The Lead Agency is required to recover misspent funds as a result of fraud.
a) Check which activities (or describe under "Other") the Lead Agency will use for unintentional program violations? Require recovery after a minimum dollar amount in improper payment.
Identify the minimum dollar amount: \$100.00 ☐ Coordinate with and refer to other State/Territory agency (e.g., State/Territory collection agency, law enforcement) ☐ Recover through repayment plans ☐ Reduce payments in subsequent months
Recover through State/Territory tax intercepts Recover through other means Establish a unit to investigate and collect improper payments. Describe: This unit includes staff from the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and Division of Public Assistance, Benefits Issuance and Recovery Unit.
Other. Describe:

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□None.			
Describe what measures the Lead Agency plans to put in place to address the investigation and recovery of misspent funds due to unintentional program violations,			
including action steps and completion timelines			
b) Check which activities the Lead Agency will use for intentional program violations or fraud?			
Require recovery after a minimum dollar amount in improper payment.			
Identify the minimum dollar amount: \$100.00			
Coordinate with and refer to other State/Territory agency (e.g., State/Territory			
collection agency, law enforcement)			
Recover through repayment plans			
Reduce payments in subsequent months			
Recover through State/Territory tax intercepts			
Recover through other means			
Establish a unit to investigate and collect improper payments.			
Describe composition of unit below			
This unit includes staff from the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and			
Division of Public Assistance, Benefits Issuance and Recovery Unit.			
Cother.			
Describe:			
None.			
Describe what measures the Lead Agency plans to put in place to address the			
investigation and recovery of misspent funds due to fraud, include action steps and completion timelines:			
c) Check which activities the Lead Agency will use for administrative error?			
Require recovery after a minimum dollar amount in improper payment.			

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Identify the minimum dollar amount: \$100.00		
Coordinate with and refer to other State/Territory agency (e.g., State/Territory		
collection agency, law enforcement)		
Recover through repayment plans		
Reduce payments in subsequent months		
Recover through State/Territory tax intercepts		
Recover through other means		
Establish a unit to investigate and collect improper payments.		
Describe composition of unit below		
This unit includes staff from the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, and		
Division of Public Assistance, Benefits Issuance and Recovery Unit.		
Other.		
Describe:		
_		
L'None.		
Describe what measures the Lead Agency plans to put in place to address the		
investigation and recovery of misspent funds due to administrative error, including		
action steps and completion timelines		

8.1.6 What type of sanction will the Lead Agency place on clients and providers to help reduce improper payments due to program violations?

The Lead Agency is required to impose sanctions on clients and providers in response to fraud.

Disqualify client.

If checked, please describe, including a description of the appeal process for clients who are disqualified:

The disqualification process is different per the child care assistance category of the Parent's Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) Program, otherwise known as Alaska's Child Care Assistance Program.

PASS I:

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When discrepancies between the child care authorization and provider billing report that may be an improper payment due to a program violation are identified, the Child Care Assistance staff contacts the contracted Work Services Provider (WSP). The WSP refers to the Alaska Temporary Assistance Manual to evaluate if a penalty or fraud situation is present and contacts the Division of Public Assistance Eligibility worker for appropriate action. When an applicant or recipient fails, without good cause, to comply with certain program requirements, a financial penalty is imposed by the Temporary Assistance unit. A penalty is a reduction in the amount of cash assistance a family receives when an adult is able to but chooses not to comply with program responsibilities. These penalties are progressive and unless the family complies, the amount of the reduction in a family's Temporary Assistance benefit may increase over time.

PASS II/III:

To help reduce improper payments due to program violations the Lead Agency may implement the following sanctions when a family refuses to comply with a repayment plan, or cooperate with the development of the plan:

- Limit the types of child care that may be used.
- Program Suspension, including suspending authorization and payment for up to six months.
- Program Termination, ending authorizations and payment, and revoking approval status as a parent or a child care provider under PASS II or PASS III.

Appeal Process:

Sanctions are effective fifteen (15) days after the parent receives the written notice unless he or she requests a Fair Hearing. A family who disagrees with the Administrative Review decision may request a Fair Hearing. The request may be made to the division in writing by a family, or their legal representative. Written requests for a Fair Hearing are submitted to the CCPO and are received or postmarked no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the written notice of determination. If a request for a Fair Hearing is received by the grantee, it must be date stamped and forwarded to the CCPO within twenty-four (24) hours and documented in an Integrated Child Care Information System (ICCIS) case note.

A family requesting a Fair Hearing may request a continuation of benefits pending the hearing decision. This request will be honored and the CCPO will notify the grantee for appropriate action. Unless the family agrees to a shorter time period, the division will mail a notice stating the date, time, and place of the hearing within ten (10) days after

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receiving a hearing request, and at least fifteen (15) days before the date the hearing is scheduled. The place must be one reasonably convenient to both parties involved.

The request for a Fair Hearing may be denied, dismissed, or terminated for the following reasons: the parent withdraws the request in writing; the issues affect groups of recipients, or all recipients, and is not one of incorrect benefit computation; or the issues are not relevant to this program, or the client fails, without good cause as determined by the hearing authority, to appear in person, telephonically, or by authorized representative at the scheduled hearing.

The Alaska Department of Administration, Office of Administrative Hearings is the designated hearing authority and conducts the hearing on behalf of the commissioner. The hearing authority will issue a final decision which is the final agency action. If the parent is not satisfied with the decision of the hearing authority, the parent may file a request for judicial review of the decision.

Disqualify provider.

If checked, please describe, including a description of the appeal process for providers who are disqualified:

PASS I, PASS II and PASS III:

To help reduce improper payments due to program violations the Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, may implement the following sanctions when a provider refuses to comply with a repayment plan or cooperate with the development of the plan:

- Limit the number of children a provider may care for.
- Program Suspension, including suspending authorization and payment for up to six months.
- Program Termination, ending authorizations and payment, and revoking approval status.
- Name removal from the "List of Eligible Providers."

Appeal Process:

Sanctions are effective fifteen (15) days after the provider receives the written notice unless he or she requests a Fair Hearing. A Fair Hearing may be requested in writing by a provider or a responsible person acting on the provider's behalf. Fair Hearing requests must be submitted to the Child Care Program Office and postmarked no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the written notice of determination. Unless a child care provider agrees to a shorter time period, the division will mail a notice stating the date,

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time and place of the hearing within ten (10) days after receiving a hearing request, and at least fifteen (15) days before the date the hearing is scheduled. The place must be one reasonably convenient to both parties involved. If the provider is not satisfied with the decision of the hearing authority, the provider may file a request for judicial review of the decision.

Prosecute	criminally
Other.	

Describe:

Child care providers participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) may not bill for child care assistance services during suspension, or after termination, from the program.

If terminated from the CCAP for an intentional program violation, a parent or provider is not allowed to participate further in the program in any capacity - either as a parent or child care provider under Parent's Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) II or PASS III.

Please note: Alaska is in the process of revising child care assistance regulations. Proposed regulations will further describe the intentional program violations determination and appeal processes.

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